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COUNTIES OF PERTH AND KINROSS

REPORTS

on the

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE COUNTIES

and

THE BURGHS OF

ABERNETHY, ABERFELDY, ALYTH, AUCHTERARDER, BLAIRGOWRIE AND RATTRAY, CALLANDER, COUPAR ANGUS, CRIEFF, DOUNE, DUNBLANE KINROSS and PITLOCHRY

for the years

1953, 1954 and 1955

by

JAMES KELMAN, M.D., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

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INTRODUCTION

1953 and 1954 were both good years. The Birth Rate, which had been falling steadily since 1946, but had shown a slight improvement in 1952, again showed an upward trend. The Infantile Mortality Rate in 1953 reached a new low record of 17 per 1,000 births. The rate for 1954 was 20 the previous lowest record being 25.7 for 1948. The Death Rate for 1953, corrected for age and sex, was 9.5, also a new low record. The figure for 1954 was 10.4, about average.

Infectious disease was again at a low level and although during 1953 there was a slight increase in the number of cases of scarlet fever, spread generally throughout the County the cases were mild in type. It is now over seven years since we had a case of diphtheria reflecting the continued success of our immunisation scheme, 86% of children aged 1 - 5 years having been immunised against diphtheria. During 1954, immunisation against whooping cough was made available, in the form of the combined prophylactic against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. This is timely, since in the absence of diphtheria for so long, it has become increasingly difficult to convince parents of the necessity for immunisation, whereas they know what whooping cough can do, and are anxious to have their children protected. The sharp rise in the number of whooping cough cases notified in 1954 will no doubt provide a spur, but subsequent years will undoubtedly show the same trend as did diphtheria.

The number of new cases of respiratory tuberculosis during 1953 remained at the recent level of a 50% increase over pre-war. 1954, however shows a welcome drop which it is to be hoped will now continue. The number of new non-respiratory cases was about the average for post-war experience, 50% below pre-war figures, but it is noteworthy that in 1954, for the first time, no death from non-respiratory tuberculosis occurred in the area.

B.C.G. vaccination was introduced during 1953/54. It has been very well received by parents the acceptance rate being 84%. This is a long term preventive measure but it is confidently anticipated that it will soon be showing results.

The work of the District Nursing Service continues to be one of the Council's most important functions under the National Health Service. and the statistics included in this Report can give only an inadequate picture of the wide range of services provided. The District Nurse is apt to be taken for granted - "the bonnie laughin' lassie in her wee caur" as the southern farmer put it - but she is one of the most important individuals in the health team, and a tower of strength in her community.

Modernisation at Strathearn Home and Cuil an Daraich being completed, attention was turned to the Cottage Home, Blairgowrie, where alterations and improvements have now been carried out. This modest Home, providing accommodation for only eight persons, has always been deservedly popular with the old folks, since, with the small numbers it is possible to give a degree of individual attention more difficult to secure in the larger Homes.

The two large Homes catering for chronic sick as well as ordinary residents, are handicapped because though there are two floors in one case and three in the other no lifts are available. Lifts may appear to be costly items to instal, but nowadays they must be regarded as essential equipment for Homes of this type. Apart from the obvious saving in labour carrying stretchers up and down awkward stairs lifts would enable the Homes to accommodate the frail ambulant unable to negotiate stairs the type of case for which it is particularly difficult to find accommodation.

Further progress has been made in setting up Old People's Welfare Committees. At the end of 1954 there were thirteen Committees functioning in the County.

In the Children's Department, the number of cases dealt with has levelled out, but the work has continued to expand, especially on the preventive side. Improvements have been carried out at the Children's Home, which has been able to meet the demands placed on it. The County Council now has a growing family of children under permanent care, and it is pleasing to relate that in 1953 two of our family obtained Higher Leaving Certificates.

All the routine work of the Public Health Service has been maintained. No further progress was made with the Turret Regional Water Scheme, but extension of regional reticulations continued. During 1953, new sewage systems were brought into operation at Almondbank, Carsie and Kenmore, and during 1954 at Scone, when work at Bridge of Earn was proceeding. The Regional Scavenging Schemes continued to provide a satisfactory service. Two new Lighting Districts were formed during 1953 at Ballinluig and Inchture and during 1954 one was formed at Grandtully/Strathtay. Further progress was made with Housing and altogether the number of new houses completed by the various Housing Authorities in the Joint County was 447 during 1953, and 329 during 1954.

The Annual Report should provide not only a record of the year's work and experience, but also an opportunity to review the service as a whole to ensure that it is being continuously adapted to meet the changing needs. The delay in the presentation of these Reports is therefore to be regretted. This has been due to pressure of work in the Department, which since 1948, has been continuously increasing. In particular, the Medical Staff of three, two of whom are almost entirely occupied with the work of the School Health Service, is now stretched to the limit, and without an increase in Medical Staff, any further expansion of the range of services provided can only be undertaken by curtailment of existing services.

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1953

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

VITAL STATISTICS

1. General. The principal vital statistics for the year 1953 are shown below. The rates are after correction for transfer, and in the case of deaths, the rates after correction for age and sex are shown in brackets.

	Perth County	Kinross County	Combined County
(a) Population	86,516	7,337	93,853
(b) Total Births	1,286	102	1,388
Birth rates	14.9	13.9	14.8
(c) Total Deaths	1,037	101	1,138
Death rates	12.0 (9.3)	13.8 (12.9)	12.1 (9.5)
(d) Infantile Mortality Rate	16	29	17

2. Births. The birth rate per thousand of the population for the Combined County is 14.8, almost the same as last year. The figures for previous years were 1948 - 17.1; 1949 - 16.0; 1950 - 15.6; 1951 - 14.4 and 1952 - 14.9. The figure for Scotland was 17.8, almost the same as last year, the figures for previous years being 17.7 for 1952 and 1951; 17.9 for 1950; 18.5 for 1949 and 19.4 for 1948.

The birth rate for the Burghs is slightly lower than that for the Landward area, the Burgh rate being 14.5 as against 14.9 for Landward.

The figures for illegitimate births during the year were:- Perth County, 6.8%, Kinross County, 6.9%. Combined County, 6.8%, showing a slight increase from the average. The figure for Scotland was 4.7%.

The still birth rate (per thousand births including still births) was 21, the same as last year. The corresponding figure for Scotland was 25, as against 26 for last year.

3 Deaths. The death rate for the Combined County was 9.5 per thousand of the population, compared to 10 3 for 1952 and 11.8 for 1951. The figure for Scotland was 11.5.

Of the 1138 deaths during 1953, 812 had attained the age of 65 and upwards, giving a senile death rate of 71.4% of the deaths, compared to 72.8 and 74.4 in 1952 and 1951 respectively. 507 persons had attained the age of 75 years and upwards (44.6% of the total deaths) and 145 persons had attained the age of 85 years and upwards (12.7% of the total deaths).

Of the 812 persons who attained the age of 65 years and upwards, 358 (44%) were males and 454 (56%) were females. The corresponding figures for later ages were 75 years and upwards, males 189 (37%), females 318 (63%); 85 years and upwards, males 48 (33%) and females 97 (67%).

Heart Disease. Heart disease caused 416 deaths, giving a rate of 4.43 per thousand of the population. This compares with 4.58 for 1952, 5.39 for 1951 and 4.31 for 1950. 313 (75%) of the deaths occurred at age 65 and upwards.

Cancer. Cancer and other malignant conditions caused 192 deaths, giving a death rate of 2.04 per thousand, compared to 2 11 for last year. 106 (55%) occurred at the age of 65 and upwards, compared to 130 (65%) last year.

Cerebral Haemorrhage. Cerebral Haemorrhage accounted for 189 deaths, giving a death rate of 2.01 compared to 1.84 for last year. 146 (77%) of the deaths occurred at the age of 65 and upwards, compared to 148 (85%) last year.

Tuberculosis caused 14 deaths, giving a rate of .15 per thousand of the population (Scotland .26). The rates for previous years were .25 for 1949, .20 for 1950, .18 for 1951 and .12 for 1952, the corresponding figures for Scotland being .67, .54, .43 and .32 for the years 1949-52 respectively.

Of the 14 deaths, 11 were due to respiratory tuberculosis, giving a rate of .12 per thousand compared to .07 for last year. The 1953 figure for Scotland was .23.

There were 3 deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis (.03 per thousand, Scotland .03 per thousand, compared to .04 and .05 respectively for 1952).

Respiratory Disease (excluding pulmonary tuberculosis) accounted for 42 deaths, giving a death rate of .44 per thousand, compared to .62 for 1952. Bronchitis caused 11 deaths, of which 7 occurred at the age of 65 years and upwards, pneumonia caused 25 deaths, of which 3 occurred at ages of less than 1 year and other respiratory diseases caused 6 deaths.

Violent Deaths numbered 54, of which 2 were due to suicide, 17 to road accidents and 35 to other forms of violence.

Maternal Mortality. There was one death from puerperal causes, giving a rate of .72 per thousand births, compared to an average for the years 1946-50 of 1.6.

Infantile Mortality. There were 23 deaths at ages less than one year, giving an infantile mortality rate of 17 per thousand births, a new low record for the County. The previous lowest record was 25.7 for 1948 and last year's figure was 26. The figure for Scotland for 1953 was 31.

Of the 23 deaths during the year, only 5 fell into the theoretically preventable group (pneumonia 3, diarrhoea 1, meningitis 1). The other 18 deaths were due to the group of causes which includes congenital debility, prematurity and malformations, compared to 29 deaths from these causes in 1952.

There were 29 stillbirths, giving a stillbirth rate of 20.9 per thousand total births including stillbirths, compared to an average of 22.2 for the years 1948-52.

MEDICAL AND NURSING SERVICES

The general arrangements have remained unchanged.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the following gifts made by Nursing Associations to the County Council during the year: Kinloch Rannoch, Blackford and Kirkmichael - furniture and furnishings; Abernethy, Almondbank, Alyth, Blackford, Dunning, Kinross and Scone - furnishings and equipment; Callander, Errol, Blair Atholl, Coupar Angus and East Carse - clinical equipment, Braco - washing machine.

During the year houses for District Nurses were completed, furnished and occupied at Kinloch Rannoch, Kinross, Kirkmichael, Muthill and Thornhill. At Kinross accommodation is provided for two nurses, with a clinic and waiting room etc. suitable for District purposes. At the other places listed, the standard bungalow containing a small dispensary was provided, and in all cases garages are provided on the site.

Owing to the difficulty in finding a suitable site, no progress was made with the proposed house at Aberfoyle. At Dunblane a nurse's house with a major clinic is planned, along with new Police houses. At Strathyre a nurse's house and dispensary is being provided as part of a scheme of Forestry houses. At Auchterarder where the nurse occupies a Council house it is hoped to provide a flat for the nurse over the clinic.

The information given below is in the form called for by the Department of Health for Scotland. All the Nursing Services are carried out by the District Nurses, and the District figures are tabulated at the end of this Report.

1. Care of Mothers and Young Children.

(a) Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics. No clinics are held in the County, but County patients attend at the clinics run by Perth Infirmary and Stirling Infirmary in these cities in conjunction with the local health authorities. During 1953, 438 cases from the Joint County received ante-natal and/or post-natal care at the Perth Clinic, making 2588 attendances. Figures for Stirling Infirmary are not available.

(b) Child Welfare Clinics. All the child welfare work in the County is carried out by the District Nurses as Health Visitors, but during 1953, 20 children from the surrounding area made 58 attendances at Perth City Clinics.

(c) Dental Care. Under the priority dental scheme, 22 expectant mothers, 20 nursing mothers and 4 pre-school children received treatment during the year.

(d) Mother and Baby Homes. None are provided.

(e) Day Nurseries. None are provided.

(f) Residential Nurseries and Children's Homes. No progress was made during the year towards providing homes for this group. During the year 19 children were accommodated in Westbank Nursery belonging to Perth City and a further 31 were accommodated in a private nursery.

(g) Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948. No applications have been received under this Act.

(h) Family Planning. Advice is available to County cases at the Mothers' Welfare Clinic Perth, and the Stirling Family Planning Clinic, both run by voluntary agencies with small grants from the County Council.

During the year 1953, 84 new cases and 150 old cases made 553 attendances at the Perth Clinic, and 18 new cases and 19 old cases made 58 attendances at the Stirling Clinic.

(i) Melville House, Perth. This organisation is largely supported by local authorities and during the year 49 cases (14 maternity, 8 family and 27 adoption) were dealt with.

2. Midwifery Service. 714 births occurred in the area during the year, of which 701 were live births and 13 were still births. Of the 714 births, 280 took place in institutions and 434 at home. 430 of the home confinements were attended by the District Nurses and 4 by private practising midwives. In 252 of these cases a doctor had been engaged and was present at the confinement; in 181 cases a doctor had been engaged, but was not present at the confinement; and in 1 case the confinement was conducted by the District Nurse alone, no doctor having been engaged.

All the district nurses are trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and sets of apparatus are available in every district. During the year gas and air analgesia was administered in 232 cases and pethidine was administered in 212 cases.

3. **Health Visiting.** A total of 37 963 visits were paid by the District Nurses as Health Visitors. Of these, 3410 visits were paid to expectant mothers, including 818 first visits; 13,497 visits were paid to children under the age of one year, including 2872 first visits; 17,289 visits were paid to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years including 1128 first visits, and 2437 visits were paid for advisory purposes to persons suffering from tuberculosis.

4. **Home Nursing.** A total of 87,231 home nursing visits were made by the District Nurses during the year to a total of 5946. An increasing number of visits was made to give injections of various sorts, chiefly of antibiotics, but of the total visits, no fewer than 52,011 were paid to a total of 2,000 elderly persons over the age of sixty-five. This aspect of the work is becoming increasingly important, but represents a considerable saving in the cost of long term sick hospital accommodation.

5. **Domestic Help.** During the year 42 part-time domestic helps were employed under the Domestic Help Scheme and 88 cases were dealt with, made up as follows:- Home confinements, 7; tuberculosis cases, 9; miscellaneous cases, mainly old people no longer able to manage alone, 72.

6. **Vaccination and Immunisation.**

Vaccination. The number of vaccinations notified during the year was 940. The percentage of pre-school children vaccinated is not known, but information from routine school medical inspection shows that the position in this area is still relatively satisfactory Of 6081 school children examined during the year ended 31/7/53, 81.4% were found to have been vaccinated. The percentages varied slightly between the groups; entrants 87.6%, 1943 group 80.03%, 1939 group 75.18%, and 1936 group 84.4%.

Diptheria Immunisation. During the year 1953, 1223 children were notified as having received two injections and approximately 1000 received a reinforcing dose.

As explained in previous reports, the level of immunisation in the community is regarded as the important factor, the aim being to secure a minimum of 75% immunisation amongst pre-school children, with "boosting" doses on entry to school. As a result of continual pressure by the District Nurses, at the end of the year the overall percentage of immunised children aged 1 - 5 remained at the very satisfactory figure of 86%.

It is again gratifying to record that no confirmed cases of diphtheria occurred in this area during the year, the last cases having occurred in October, 1947 and the last deaths in 1944.

Other Diseases. Immunisation against whooping cough is not yet included in the Council's scheme, but it is hoped to introduce a combined prophylactic for diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus during next year. A number of general practitioners are at present using a combined prophylactic against diphtheria and whooping cough.

7. **Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care.**

Tuberculosis. The close association between the staff of the County Health Department and the Area Tuberculosis Physician continues. Much of the immediate preventive work, e.g. examination of contacts, is done by the Area Tuberculosis Physician on behalf of the County Council, but as described below, the County Council is now entering the wider field by providing B.C.G. vaccination for school leavers.

The table below gives comparative figures dating back to pre-war years.

	Average 1931-35	Average 1936-40	Average 1941-45	Average 1946-50	1951	1952	1953
New confirmed cases:-							
Respiratory	53	54	58	75	75	75	74
Non-respiratory	54	57	53	27	23	21	24
Cases on list at 31st Dec.							
Respiratory	145	164	166	255	342	370	384
Non-respiratory	163	222	203	161	120	116	120
Number of cases receiving Institutional treatment	115	119	139	123	170	172	175
Deaths:-							
Respiratory	32	26	29	26	15	7	11
Non-respiratory	14	11	15	5	3	4	3

New respiratory cases confirmed during the year were 74, against 75 last year. There were 384 cases remaining on the list at 31/12/53, this high figure being a carry over of the higher incidence of the last few years. The deaths show a slight increase, being 11 against last year's figure of 7.

Non-respiratory figures show a slight increase, 24 compared to 21 last year. There were 3 deaths.

175 patients received hospital care throughout the year, almost the same figure as last year. Of the 175 cases, 140 were respiratory cases.

300 contacts of pulmonary cases were examined, an average of 4.0 contacts per confirmed cases, the same figure as last year and in addition 29 contacts of non-pulmonary cases were examined as against 38 last year.

Under the scheme providing for B.C.G. vaccination, 359 persons were tuberculin tested. Of these 162 were found to be tuberculin negative and 154 were successfully vaccinated.

During the year extra nourishment grants were given in 28 cases and as usual sputum containers and disinfectants were supplied where required.

B.C.G. Vaccination. During the year, the County Council considered a report by the County Medical Officer which discussed the tuberculosis position. As will be seen from the figures in the table above, since the war there has been roughly a 50% increase in the number of new respiratory cases, and roughly a 50% decrease in the number of new non-respiratory cases. It is believed that these two changes are not unrelated. Further, the increased incidence of new respiratory cases affects more especially the young adults in the population, particularly the young women. The report suggested that it would be advisable to provide some degree of protection particularly for this group by making B.C.G. vaccination available on a voluntary basis for school leavers, and recommended that the Council's scheme under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947 be amended accordingly. The County Council accepted this recommendation and arrangements were made to make B.C.G. vaccination available during school session 1953-54. This was done during the first three months of 1954 and details will be given in next year's Report.

8. **Infectious Disease.** During the year 1953, the death rate per thousand of the population from the principal infectious diseases was 0.04 for the Combined County, compared to an average of 0.08 for the previous five years.

The number of confirmed cases of infectious disease coming to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health, whether by notification or otherwise, is shown below.

Cerebral-Spinal Fever	1	Pneumonia, not otherwise notifiable	15
Diphtheria	-	Poliomyelitis	2
Dysentry	11	Puerperal Fever	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Erysipelas	5	Scarlet Fever	186
Jaundice, acute infective	-	Tuberculosis, pulmonary	74
Malaria	1	Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary	24
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	Typhoid	-
Pneumonia, acute influenzal	-	Paratyphoid	1
Pneumonia, acute primary	16	Whooping Cough	174

Apart from Scarlet Fever, the incidence of infectious disease remained at a low level. The number of cases of Scarlet Fever was 186, compared to 97 last year. The cases generally were scattered throughout the County, but there was one outbreak in a residential school involving a total of 35 pupils and lasting for approximately eight weeks. After about six weeks, when a total of 31 cases had occurred, Dick testing was carried out by the staff of the County Health Department and the local doctor and Scarlet Fever prophylactic given to the susceptibles. Following the first injection, a further four cases occurred, but the outbreak then abruptly terminated. Figures for pneumonia were slightly lower than last year. There were two cases of poliomyelitis, compared to an average of 4.2 for the years 1949-53 and the peak of 30 for 1947.

9. **Venereal Diseases.** The figures for new cases from this area in attendance at the clinics at Perth, Dundee and Stirling are shown below:-

	Perth	Dundee	Stirling	Totals
(a) Syphilis	3	1	1	5
(b) Gonorrhoea	6	-	3	9
(c) Other venereal conditions	13	10	1	24
Total	22	11	5	38
(d) Non-venereal conditions	5	1	1	7
	27	12	6	45

The figures for last year were Perth 55; Dundee 11, and Stirling 9.

10. **Mental Health Services.** The number of persons admitted to hospital at the instance of Authorised Officers was 32. Of this number 26 were admitted to the Hospital, Murthly, 1 to the Murray Royal, Perth, 4 to Stratheden Hospital and 1 to Montrose Mental Hospital.

Eight cases were certified as mental defectives during the year, all of whom were admitted to Baldovan Institution.

One certified mental defective was boarded-out under guardianship making the total number boarded-out at the end of the year seven.

On behalf of the Eastern Regional Hospital Board statutory supervision and after care were given to seven persons suffering from mental illness and who had been placed under guardianship, boarded-out or discharged from hospital on probation.

Extensive use continued to be made throughout the year of the Perth Mental Health Clinic.

11. **Orthopaedic Scheme.** During the year the Orthopaedic Scheme was carried out as formerly on behalf of the Regional Hospital Board. The undernoted figures show the work done during the year:-

	Pre-School		School Children		Adults		Total
	City	County	City	County	City	County	
Attendances at Surgeon's Clinics	437	542	537	1035	8	53	2612
Cases under treatment	87	141	161	185	4	5	583
Cases under observation	63	123	119	97	4	9	415
Number of treatments	834	1730	2874	3728	54	206	9426
New cases during year	124	154	70	222	-	21	591
Discharges during year	26	27	89	82	9	21	254
Admissions to Bridge of Earn	12	11	17	46	-	-	86
Admissions to Fairmilehead	-	-	-	2	-	-	2

12. Health Education. The usual short talks and demonstrations on Health Topics were given during the year by the District Nurses to women's organisations, mostly W.R.I. meetings, the total number being 46 lectures and 10 demonstrations. Eight meetings were held for various adult organisations at which a talk was given by a member of the staff of the County Health Department.

The medical lecturer of the Scottish Council for Health Education visited the County during the weeks commencing 9th March and 7th December, when in addition to an extensive series of visits to schools, talks were given to adult audiences at Path of Condie, Kinloch, Stormontfield and Kinglands.

13. Registration of Nursing Homes. There are three private Nursing Homes registered in the area:-

1 at Crieff (Medical only)
1 at Aberfoyle (Medical only)
1 at Callander (Medical only).

SCHOOL HEALTH

A separate report has been issued for the year ended 31st July, 1953.

WELFARE SERVICE

Residential Accommodation. Admissions and discharges during the year to the County Council's Residential Homes were as follows:-

	Strathearn	Cuil-an-Daraich	Cottage Home	St. John's Mount
In residence at 31/12/52	26	17	8	2
Admissions during year	28	23	7	8
Discharges during year	25	14	8	4
In residence at 31/12/53	29	26	7	6

Alterations and improvements with a certain amount of refurnishing were carried out at the Cottage Home, Blairgowrie, adding greatly to the convenience and amenity of this Home.

The Board of Management for the County and City of Perth General Hospitals having provided the services of a Chiropodist for the Hospital Wards at Strathearn Home and Cuil-an-Daraich, offered her services for those residents in Part III Accommodation in the Homes, which offer was accepted.

Voluntary Homes with which agreements had been entered into to pay supplementation for those residents in the Homes unable to meet the full maintenance charge numbered seven.

The Homes and the number of residents for whom payment was made during the year were as follows:-

Belmont Castle Eventide Home, Meigle	7
David Watson Home, Gargunnock	3
Hope Park Home, Blairgowrie	12
Mailler Home of Rest, Auchterarder	3
Whitelaw Home of Rest, Auchterarder	3
Auchinlea Home, Campbeltown	1
Oswald House Eventide Home for Blind Women, Edinburgh	1

Temporary accommodation was provided for one family consisting of a mother and three children rendered homeless through eviction.

Hospital Care. Hospital accommodation continues to be provided on behalf of the Eastern Regional Hospital Board for long term sick cases in Strathearn Home and Cuil-an-Daraich.

Admissions and discharges during the year were as follows:-

	Strathearn	Cuil-an-Daraich
In sick beds on 31/12/52	34	16
Admissions during year	26	5
Discharges and deaths during year	27	5
In sick beds on 31/12/53	33	16

Welfare of the Aged. Following the setting up of the County Old People's Welfare Committee steps were taken to implement one of the principle aims of the Committee, viz., to encourage the formation of local Old People's Welfare Committees throughout the area. At the end of the year four such Committees were functioning and the setting up of a number of others was under consideration. One of these Committees in conjunction with the local branch of the British Red Cross started a Chiropody Service for the old people in the district.

The Regional Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Aged for the Eastern Region during the year completed their examination of the existing resources and the developments necessary to provide an adequate service for the welfare of the aged. The conclusions reached, so far as the Joint County is concerned, were that the accommodation available in Homes for Old People was adequate to meet immediate requirements, and that steps being taken to increase the accommodation for old people requiring hospital treatment would provide sufficient beds for the geriatric service but that there was scope for the development of certain Domiciliary Services such as chiropody and meals services and the extension of the Domestic Help Scheme to provide for attendance after 5 p.m. So far as accommodation is concerned, it is felt that these conclusions must be accepted with some reserve. There is some evidence to suggest, for example, that the numbers on waiting lists are an understatement of the true position, because knowing the difficulty of securing admission, general medical practitioners tend to put forward only cases of urgency.

Welfare Services for Handicapped Persons.

(a) Blind. The duties of the Council in relation to blind and partially sighted persons continues to be carried out on their behalf by the Society for Teaching the Blind to Read in the County and City of Perth. During the year ended 31/3/53 22 persons were certified blind and registered for the first time bringing the total of blind persons on the Register up to 138. Details of these cases are as follows:-

Age Groups	1 - 4	5 - 15	16 - 20	21 - 39	40 - 59	60 - 69	70-	Total
	1	6	1	12	26	27	65	138

Children (1-15)	At School	2
	Not at school (includes 4 additionally handicapped)	5
Adults	In sheltered employment - Workshops for the Blind	8
	In other employment	6
	Trained but unemployed	1
	Not available for employment - housewives, retired persons, etc.	93
	Not capable of work	23

(b) Other Handicapped Persons. During the year the County Council were responsible for the maintenance for one case in Anton House, Broughty Ferry, a Training Home for Crippled Girls, one case in Derwen Cripples College, Oswestry and one in the Epileptic Colony, Bridge of Weir.

The Scheme for the training of home bound handicapped persons based on Anton House which was commenced last year made steady progress during the year. At the end of the year there were eight cases from this area either being trained or supervised.

Removal of Persons in urgent need of care. For the first time since the National Assistance Act, 1948 came into operation it was necessary during the year to use the statutory powers given under Section 47 of the Act, as amended, to remove compulsorily to suitable premises, in this instance a Hospital, a case requiring care and attention.

Care of Property of Persons admitted to Hospital etc. Arrangements required to be made for the protection of movable property in two instances during the year. Including the property taken into care in previous years protection was given in ten cases during the year.

Burial or Cremation of the Dead. During the year the burial of fourteen persons was carried out.

Registration of Old People's Homes. No new Homes were registered during the year, the number on the Register at the end of the year being eight.

CHILDREN

Mr. F.J. Earnshaw, Children's Officer

The work of the Children's Department continues to expand, although the actual number of cases dealt with has not shown an increase this year. The preventive aspect is kept continually in the forefront, special effort being made to preserve the integrity of the family as a unit, and all available agencies are utilised to this end.

1. Children Act. The number of children in care during the year was as follows:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Children in care as at 1/1/53	73	46	119
Children received into care during year	46	48	94
	119	94	213
Children discharged from care during year	55	44	99
	64	50	114

Details of the children in care on 31/12/53 are as follows:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Boarded out with relatives	6	10	16
Boarded out with foster-parents	22	12	34
Kippen House, Dunning	20	6	26
Westbank Nursery, Perth	1	3	4
Pitversie Nursery, Abernethy	2	6	8
Edinburgh Home for Babies	-	1	1
Dr. Barnardo's Homes	3	3	6
Levenhall Home for Boys, Musselburgh	1	-	1
The Orphanage, Aberlour	3	3	6
Children over school leaving age under supervision	6	6	12
	64	50	114

During the year, no children were committed to care by the Court.

2. Kippen House, Dunning.

(a) Improvements. Additional improvements have been completed during the year, one of the main items being the installation of a new Esse Cooker. It is larger than the previous model and is proving very satisfactory

The work of bringing the toilet facilities up to standard is well ahead and should be completed in the near future.

There is still a lack of drying facilities in the laundry block, but it has been agreed that some type of drying device is required and the matter is under consideration.

The ground surrounding the house and on both sides of the main drive has been purchased. This will allow the children to play freely without trespassing. The question of planting trees is under consideration.

Fire precautions are almost complete so far as the internal alterations are concerned, and a stairway has been erected outside.

(b) Staff. Various changes have taken place during the year, but fortunately there has been little difficulty in maintaining the full complement.

(c) Social Activities. Social activities were numerous and varied during the year. The annual trip to Leven was again a great success, as was the outing to St. Andrews as guests of the Perth Ladies' Circle. Members of the local Scout troop had a fine week under canvas at Blair Atholl, and the Cub Members spent a very fine week at Arbroath. The Scoutmaster, Guide Captain, Cubmaster and Brown Owl never fail to give a warm welcome to new members from Kippen House, and it was pleasing to know that the contingent from Kippen House were very able members of the Scout and Cub Concert Party which performed in the Dunning Hall in aid of funds for new Club premises.

Coronation activities were included in the local arrangements, with a visit to see the Coronation Film and a high tea thereafter. As the result of an unexpected grant, all the children were entertained to Bertram Mills Circus, which, needless to say, was thoroughly enjoyed. Guy Fawkes Night produced the usual big bonfire and fireworks and a few of the children did themselves well at the "guysing" in the village. One of the main social events is the Christmas Party, which is always a high success, and this year was no exception. Once again a few of the children performed a few acts and did so very well. The "Punch and Judy" man was again present, and never seems to lose his popularity.

During the summer, members of Bridge of Earn W.R.I. entertained the children to a picnic in the grounds at Kippen. Members of the Perth Ladies' Circle also visited the Home and had tea with the children. A small Whist Drive held in the Ballroom was very successful, and the proceeds were handed over to Matron to augment her "Children's Fund". This Fund is at Matron's disposal to spend as she thinks fit on various extras for the children. The function was organised and run entirely by a few local people who take an interest in our Children's Home.

(d) General. As will be appreciated from the figures detailed overleaf, the Home serves a very useful purpose. Quite a number of the children admitted are difficult one way or another, but, despite this, there has been very little trouble. The success of the Home is mainly due to Matron and her staff, who endeavour at all times to maintain a spirit of cheerfulness and a homely atmosphere.

	Boys	Girls	Total
Children in Home at 1/1/53	21	9	30
Children admitted during year	25	16	41
	46	25	71
Children discharged during year	26	19	45
Children in Home at 31/12/53	20	6	26

3. After-Care. During the year, 21 children in care were supervised. Two boys were successful in obtaining their Higher Leaving Certificates. One has entered the Accountancy profession, and has been apprenticed as a Chartered Accountant. The other has remained at school in order to pass a language examination prior to going to a University.

Details are as follows:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Cook	-	1	1
Domestic	-	2	2
Sea Cadet	1	-	1
Clerk/Clerkess	1	1	2
Sawmill Labourer	1	-	1
Farm Worker	2	1	3
Forestry Worker	1	-	1
Machinist	-	1	1
Trainee Nurse	-	1	1
Nurseryman	1	-	1
Apprentice Chartered Accountant	1	-	1
Apprentice Plumber	1	-	1
Apprentice Joiner	1	-	1
Apprentice Electrician	1	-	1
Linen Factory Worker	-	1	1
Cinema Projectionist	1	-	1
Copy Typist	-	1	1
	12	9	21

4. Nursery Accommodation. Nursery accommodation for children up to four years of age is still acute. No success has been possible in the way of providing a suitable building for conversion into a Nursery. This is partly due to the policy of the Scottish Home Department, which is to discourage Nurseries providing for more than twelve children, and, whilst this may be considered to have definite advantages, it is not considered to be economical from the Council's point of view. It is anticipated that an effort will be made to make a permanent arrangement with a Nursery for the provision of ten to twelve infants. Such an arrangement would be very acceptable.

An appeal for temporary foster-parents has so far met with no success, but it is hoped to explore this avenue further in the near future.

Details of Nursery children dealt with during the year are as follows:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Westbank Residential Nursery, Perth.			
Children in Nursery at 1/1/53	3	2	5
Children admitted during the year	7	7	14
	10	9	19
Children discharged during the year	9	6	15
Children in Nursery at 31/12/53	1	3	4
Pitversie Nursery, Abernethy.			
Children in Nursery at 1/1/53	3	2	5
Children admitted during year	9	17	26
	12	19	31
Children discharged during the year	10	13	23
Children in Nursery at 31/12/53	2	6	8

5. Adoption. During the year, Adoption Orders were granted in respect of seven children who were in the Council's care. Eleven children were placed with a view to adoption and of these five Adoption Orders have been granted, leaving six in respect of whom Adoption Orders are pending.

There are many suitable couples anxious to adopt young children, and, in the case of a baby boy or girl considered suitable, there is no difficulty in finding a good home where the infant is received with affection and a real sense of belonging.

Intimations of intention to apply for an Adoption Order numbered twenty, and in all forty-two cases were supervised during the probationary period.

6. Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act, 1937. Six new notifications in terms of Part I were received during the year. Eleven were removed from the Register, making four on the Register at 31/12/53.

7. Children neglected or ill-treated in their own homes. As the result of a circular letter sent to all Ministers, Doctors, District Nurses, Headmasters and Police throughout the County, numerous cases were reported during the year. In almost every case it was apparent that the appropriate service to make investigation was the R.S.S.P.C.C. Unfortunately, that Society has not yet agreed to co-operate and it is felt that without some form of co-operation, the central index system recommended by the Co-ordination Committee is likely to be incomplete. It is to be hoped, however, that some concrete proposal will be forthcoming from the R.S.S.P.C.C., which will help to overcome any points of difficulty and lend itself to full co-operation of all the Voluntary and Statutory Services concerned. It should be stressed, however, that whilst the R.S.S.P.C.C. has not yet agreed to allow its local inspector to participate in the work of a Co-ordination Committee, or to provide information for a central index of cases, excellent co-operation has been established with the local inspectors on a case basis, working freely in both directions.

8. General Remarks. Whilst the number of children in care has not varied much from last year, it is noteworthy that the number has not increased. The field of prevention work is becoming stronger, and many children who may have required temporary care have been provided for by other services, namely the Home Help Service. Efforts to extend the boarding-out system are being vigorously pursued, as are the efforts to rehabilitate broken homes. The lack of suitable housing is one of the main reasons for families consisting of three and more children being taken into care, and it is to be hoped that efforts will be made by the appropriate authority to consider these families when the need for houses is being determined.

FOOD SUPPLY

1. Food and Drugs.

Sampling. During the year ended 31/12/53, 566 samples were taken and submitted for analysis, compared with 611 during the previous year.

Of this total 516 were informal samples comprising 449 milk, 3 ice cream, 2 mince, cereals 14, tinned food 8, oils 6, cheese 1, condensed milk 1, jams 2, table cream 1, tea 2, coffee 2, cocoa 1, medicines and drugs 5, spices 5, dehydrated vegetables 2, miscellaneous foodstuffs 12.

Of the non-genuine informal samples, 38 were of milk. 18 of these were from single cows, and were taken in an endeavour to pin down several cases of mastitis in the herds concerned. The remaining 20 were taken from herds where dairymen were having difficulty in keeping their milk up to standard, and these samples were taken to ascertain if possible the cause of the deficiencies. After consultation with the College of Agriculture the feeding was altered and the milk has since improved.

Three informal samples of ice cream were returned as not genuine. One of the vendors ceased selling ice cream before a formal sample could be taken, and the other two were taken at the request of a merchant who wished a check on the quality of his product.

One informal sample of flour was found to be heavily infested with flour mite. The remainder of the stock was withdrawn from sale at our request.

50 official samples were taken during the year compared with 41 in 1952. These comprised 13 milk (2 not genuine), 5 sausages, 13 whisky, 16 ice cream (5 not genuine) and 3 mince (2 not genuine).

2 formal samples of milk were reported as not genuine. The deficiency was so little in each case, that it was not considered advisable to prosecute, but a letter of warning was addressed by the County Clerk to each producer, and subsequent samples complied.

5 formal samples of ice cream were reported as being below the permitted minimum percentage of fat (5%). Proceedings were taken against the vendors and one was fined £2, three were fined £3 each and one was fined £8. This latter merchant had been before the Court on two previous occasions for similar offences.

Two formal samples of mince were returned as not genuine containing 64 and 192 parts of Sulphur Dioxide per million in the period when such preservative is not permitted. The vendors were fined £4 and £5 respectively.

The average quality of the milk supply based on the samples submitted during the year remained satisfactory, showing the following results:-

Butter Fat	3.81%	(standard 3%)
Solids not Fat	8.68%	(standard 8.5%)
Total Solids	12.49%	(standard 11.5%)
Water	87.51%	(standard 88.5%)

Unsound Food. 1 ton 8 cwts. 13 qrs. 7 lbs. 15½ oz. of assorted foodstuffs were seized during the year.

Meat Inspection. Details of the animals slaughtered and the condemnations made are shown for the individual slaughterhouses in the County.

Year 1953	Class of Animals	Slaughtered	Wholly Condemned	Partially Condemned	Weight (in lbs.) of condemned meat and offals
Aberfeldy	Cattle	638	2	20	5555
	Sheep	3555	18	4	1480
	Pigs	224	2	6	207
	Calves	60	1	1	43
Blairgowrie	Cattle	1103	41	75	46418
	Sheep	6972	103	144	8345
	Pigs	1545	17	103	4325
	Calves	289	9	2	1128
Crieff	Cattle	848	34	-	17486
	Sheep	5724	48	-	2074
	Pigs	620	6	-	332
	Calves	262	4	-	118
Dunblane	Cattle	418	10	5	6680
	Sheep	2504	16	3	1240
	Pigs	168	1	2	180
	Calves	42	2	-	100
Milnathort	Pigs	5589	3	389	3092

No major alterations were made to any of the slaughterhouses during the year.

In many cases the methods of delivering meat to the retailers leaves much to be desired and the provision of proper hygienic vehicles is now much overdue.

2. Milk and Dairies. 17 new premises were registered during the year 1953 and 12 registrations lapsed for various reasons. The total number of dairy registrations in the Combined County at 31/12/53 was 351 (an increase of 5) comprising 264 in Perth County, 59 in Kinross and 28 in the various Burghs. Of these 216 were registered as producers only, 78 as producer/retailers and 57 as retailers only. There were no wholesale dealers only.

The average number of cows per dairy herd was 32.3 at 31/12/53, compared to 31.9 at 31/12/52 and 29.6 and 29.3 respectively at the end of 1951 and 1950.

Of the 294 producers at 31/12/53, 228 held designated licences, an increase of 6 over the previous year - Certified 24, Tuberculin Tested 202 and Standard 2. There was only 1 Pasteurising plant in the area.

The results of sampling are shown in the following tables:-

Bacteriological examination of samples of producers' milk

Designation	Routine Samples *		Repeat Samples ¢		No. of producers with 3 or more consecutive failures (routine or repeat)
	Number taken	Number failing	Number taken	Number failing	
Certified	135	23	31	9	2
Tuberculin tested	1117	109	122	13	-
Standard	11	1	1	-	-

* - excluding samples taken before licence is granted.

¢ - i.e. samples taken to test whether improvement has been effected after failure of a routine sample.

Ordinary Producers

Number of Farms	Number of samples examined	Number of Farms consistently up to standard	Number of farms where sample failed	
			On one occasion	On two or more occasions
28	46	23	5	-

Pasteurising Plants

Designation	No. of plants	No. of samples	No. of Plants where phosthatase test was -			No. of plants milk from which showed presence of B. Coli	
			Consistently up to standard	Not up to standard			
				on one occasion	on two or more occasions	on one occasion	on two or more occasions
T.T. Pasteurised	1	26	-	-	1	1	-

Biological Testing for Tuberculosis

Type of Milk	Number of samples examined	Number of positive results	Number of producers involved in positive results
Non-designated	2	-	-
Standard	-	-	-
Tuberculin Tested	22	-	-
Certified	-	-	-

In general dairymen have been found to comply with the prescribed conditions and no licences were refused, suspended or revoked during the year.

3. Ice Cream. During the year 8 new registrations were approved under the Ice Cream (Scotland) Regulations, 1948. Of these 2 were for manufacture, storage and sale, 5 were for storage and sale and 1 was for sale only.

4 registrations were cancelled during 1953 and at 31st December, 1953, the total number of registrations in force was 134, being 38 for manufacture, storage and sale, 76 for sale and storage, 12 for sale only and 8 vehicles (4 sale and storage and 4 sale only).

6 test samples were taken for chemical analysis. Of these 3 were found to be below the prescribed standard of 5% butter fat. The Official samples taken amounted to 13 and of this figure 5 were found to be deficient in fat. Court proceedings were instituted and in each case the vendor was fined.

7 test samples were taken for bacteriological examination and of these 3 were found to be below the suggested standard.

4. Clean Food. No new measures were taken during the year to ensure the hygienic handling of foodstuffs by food traders etc., but attention was directed to this matter at routine inspections and visits in connection with sampling and additions or alterations to premises.

5. Food Poisoning. One infection with Salmonella Typhimurium was reported, involving two persons in the same household. The suspected food was black pudding, but no material was available for examination.

6. Nutrition. No change was apparent during the year under review.

PERTH COUNTY

REPORT to Perth County Council on the non-transferred functions.

Mr. A.L. Riddell, County Sanitary Inspector.

1. Housing.

General. The total number of houses erected by Perth County Council up to the end of 1952 was 1854. During the year under review a further 252 were completed and occupied. At the end of 1953 233 houses were in course of construction.

Building Byelaws. 329 applications were dealt with under the Byelaws. Of these 262 were in respect of additions, alterations etc. to individual existing houses and the erection of garages, filling stations, public conveniences etc. and 67 applications referred to 176 new houses. Of this latter figure 99 were to be built by the County Council (10 of 2 apartments, 69 of 3 apartments, and 20 of 4 apartments); 51 were houses to be built by private enterprise (12 of 3 apartments, 22 of 4 apartments, 10 of 5 apartments, 5 of 6 apartments and 2 of 8 apartments) and 26 were houses to be built under the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1952 - Section 3 (14 of 3 apartments, 11 of 4 apartments and 1 of 5 apartments).

Housing (Rural Workers) (Scotland) Acts. 2 Certificates B were issued in respect of 2 houses. One house has still to be completed under these Acts.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 - Section 100. 8 Certificates B were issued in respect of 8 houses

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1952 - Section 3 11 Certificates A were issued in respect of 18 houses and 3 Certificates B were issued in respect of 3 houses.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 and 1952. During the year 136 applications under the above were dealt with and of this figure 123 were approved for grant.

Control of Civil Building. 220 applications were dealt with under the above heading.

Housing of Seasonal Workers. As previously reported most of the inspections were at the berryfields in Eastern Perthshire, where the accommodation provided was found to be reasonably satisfactory. Every encouragement is being given to the farmers to improve their accommodation.

Tents, Vans and Sheds. This subject was dealt with fairly fully in the Report for 1952. During 1953, 156 inspections were made. 52 of these were to workers' camps, holiday camps and camping sites. The remaining 104 were paid to tinkers' and berrypickers' encampments.

There seems to have been some increase in the number of tinkers in the County and some evidence that this has been due to pressure in other areas. The true tinker however, is usually amenable to reason, but much more difficulty is experienced with the hawker or dealer class, also apparently increasing in number. The assistance of the Police is frequently necessary in these cases, and the assistance of the County Police Authorities is much appreciated.

2. Water Supplies

Sampling. 239 samples of water were taken during the year. Of this number 168 were taken of private supplies following various complaints during routine investigations or in connection with grant applications under the Agricultural Water Supplies Scheme. The remaining 71 were taken from Public Supplies.

Public Water Supplies. It is most disappointing to have again to report very little progress on the regional water supplies apart from distribution main laying in the future Benachally supply area. Pipe deliveries for the Loch Turret Scheme were discontinued during the year and maintenance work was directed towards safeguarding against depreciation of the pipes already laid out on the ground.

During 1953 some £47,000 was spent on distribution mains but like 1952 this expenditure was still well below the capital allocation provided for Perthshire by the Department of Health. In particular, the Lethendy Scheme was held up and the augmentation of the Balbeggie supply from Fairygreen was only half completed. The scheme to supply Strathord Estate was also held over. During the year a mains supply was laid from Ballinluig to Kindallachan village and the Perth Burgh mains were extended through Huntingtower to Almondbank with a branch line laid out to Tibbermore. Connections to this latter main have to be restricted until 1955 when a full supply from Perth Burgh will become available in the area. A branch main was laid in Methven to Tippermallo Farm. In the Meikleour area the mains were extended to Pittendreich, in New Alyth to Chapelhill and in the Aberuthven area to Laigh of Rossie. A start was made on the augmentation of the Balbeggie Scheme from a higher source at Fairygreen and the mains were laid so far as Gallowhill and linked through Whitefield to the pipes in the Wolfhill and Newbigging area. Agreement was reached with Strathord Estate regarding a Scheme to supply the remainder of the farms on that Estate through public mains from the Shenval and Dunkeld Regional systems. An additional pressure filter was installed at Dunkeld to augment the regional supply. In the Kincardine area a main was laid from Burnbank corner almost to Thornhill, which main will serve as a down-feed for the Turret Scheme in the future. The Burrelton supply was extended to Mains of Keithick, while in the Bridge of Earn area an extension was made towards Forgandenny to the limit imposed by the height of the existing service reservoir. This main supplies Freeland Farm, etc. The acquisition of the Aberfoyle system from Montrose Estates was completed and the mains were relaid from the main street to the Covenanters' Inn. The Luncarty supply was extended to feed Cramflats, etc. A small extension was made to the Upper Errol supply to feed Gallowflat. A substantial contribution was made to the Blairgowrie Water Board towards the cost of laying a main to Ashgrove Mill for County Housing and future extension towards Alyth. The new water supply to Kirkton of Balquhidder was completed and a start was made with a main which will eventually supply Blair Atholl from the Pitlochry source. This was laid to Killiecrankie village. The Shenval main was scraped to Letham Cross-roads as were Scone village mains.

Housing extensions were carried out at Scone, Dunning, Almondbank, Bridge of Earn, Deanston, Longforgan, Aberfoyle, Glencarse Luncarty, Methven and Comrie.

The Fearnan supply was deferred for future consideration. Pipes arrived for the supply main for the Meigle to Coupar Angus area. No progress was made during the year with the main connecting Tomaknock (Crieff) to Madderty.

During the year 433 houses were connected to the mains for the first time and the undernoted additional fittings supplied - 658 new sinks 483 wash-hand basins, 476 water closets, 370 baths, 366 cisterns, 262 miscellaneous taps, 107 field troughs, 184 drinking bowls, a total of 2906 completed. This averages out at about 11 new appliances connected to our water supplies every working day.

Difficulty was experienced because of drought during the year on some of the County supplies but in no area was anything more than temporary minor discomfort experienced by the householders. The public water supplies were efficiently maintained and where possible improved.

3. Drainage.

Sampling. During the year 7 samples of sewage effluent were taken.

General. It has been difficult to keep up the standard of maintenance throughout the County during the year owing to the lack of transport to service the works. In previous years it has always been possible to utilise the Vacuum Tank Waggon when it was not desludging the sewage treatment works, but owing to the increase in the number of works in the County the Vacuum Tank Waggon is practically fully employed on desludging.

During the year new sewage systems were brought into operation at Almondbank, Carsie and Kenmore. Work was also commenced on the new sewage treatment works for Scone and on the sewage system for Bridge of Earn. The plans for the Glencarse Drainage Scheme were completed and preliminary work commenced on the Kinrossie Scheme.

Composting has continued to be carried out at Methven and Burrelton and the product readily sold. As in the previous year, sludge has been sprayed over grass lands whenever possible, as transport has not been available to haul straw which is the basic material of the compost.

Almondbank. The sewage system for this village serves all the existing properties and the Admiralty sites adjoining the village and also provides for any reasonable future development The sewage treatment works are the existing works on one of the Admiralty sites which were purchased from them and repaired and renovated. Treatment is by sedimentation tank and two circular filters. The effluent discharges into the River Almond. A new pump chamber was constructed to elevate the village sewage to the sedimentation tank.

Carsie. The sewage treatment works for Carsie were completed and put into operation. Treatment consists of precipitation only and the effluent discharges into the Lunan Burn which provides adequate dilution for the area now served. When the area is extended to include Rosemount the tanks will require to be enlarged and filters installed and provision has been made to allow this to be done.

Kenmore. This village has now been provided with a drainage system which serves all existing properties with the exception of those that lie west of the Church and allowance has been made for any reasonable development in the future. The whole system drains to a pump chamber constructed at the east end of Taymouth Castle policies and the sewage is pumped to a septic tank built on the banks of the River Tay which affords treatment. The effluent discharges into the River Tay which affords ample dilution.

In all the new sewage treatment works brought into operation, provision has been made for desludging by means of the Vacuum Tank Waggon.

4. Scavenging. The uplifting of household refuse continued in a satisfactory manner during the year.

The Carse area collection is now working well, but it would be an advantage if a coup were to be found in the vicinity of Invergowrie to take the refuse from that village. The present coup at Errol is rather too far distant from Invergowrie and involving a return journey of some 16 miles, and investigations are at present in progress to find a refuse coup somewhat nearer Invergowrie.

In the remaining scavenging districts the work is mainly carried out by private contractors.

370 inspections in connection with scavenging districts were made during the year.

The amount of waste paper collected during the year was 10 tons 10 cwts. for which £31:10·- was received.

5. Street Lighting. There are now 36 Special Lighting Districts in the County The total number of lamps involved is 1081.

New Districts were formed during the year at Ballinluig and Inchture.

6. Burial Grounds. The Burial Grounds throughout the County have been adequately maintained.

7. Factories Act, 1937. At 31/12/53 there were in the County 192 mechanical and 66 non-mechanical factories. In addition 5 building sites and 4 engineering sites were dealt with under Section 7 of the Act. During the year 141 inspections were made and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

Intimation from H.M. Inspector of Factories was received on one occasion. This was satisfactorily cleared up without recourse to written intimation. On 23 occasions minor defects were found and of these 22 were remedied, the remaining case still being dealt with at the close of the year.

8. Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades operated in the Landward part of the County.

9. Rats and Mice Destruction. The staff employed remains the same as in past years, namely one foreman and one trapper operating from Braco and one foreman and two trappers operating from Perth.

More time was available for survey work and 586 premises were surveyed. Of these 482 were found to be free of infestation, 94 had light infestations and 10 medium infestations. All infested premises were satisfactorily dealt with, either by our own squads or by the owner's or occupier's own efforts.

390 visits were paid to premises where actual rat destruction work was carried out. These comprised Local Authority premises (mainly refuse coups) 143; dwelling houses 74; business or industrial premises 32; agricultural properties 141. Three hospitals were also regularly inspected and treated where necessary at the request of the Regional Hospital Board.

During the aforementioned visits it is estimated that 24,391 rats and 478 mice were destroyed, making a total of 24,869 as compared with 29,579 in 1952.

Further killing operations were carried out on 19 occasions at 9 Local Authority premises (playing fields) and 8 farms and one hotel.

In addition to the above work, 102 inspections were carried out by the Sanitary Staff in connection with complaints regarding rat and mice infestation.

The increasing use of "Warfarin" has to some extent cut down the amount of work carried out by our squads and this is reflected in the increased time available for survey work.

10. Disinfestations (apart from Rats and Mice). During the year disinfestation treatment was given on 34 occasions to various types of property as follows: 21 dwelling houses were treated for flea infestation, 2 houses were treated for beetle infestation, clothing and bedding in one house were treated for lice infestation, and clothing and bedding were treated for lice in one workers' camp, 1 agricultural workers dormitory and 1 residential school. 1 house was treated for wood beetle infestation. On 3 occasions Hotel kitchens were treated for beetle infestation, as were 1 shop and 1 bakehouse. On 1 occasion the sand pit in a public playing field was treated for fleas.

In all cases treatment proved to be successful and no further complaints were received.

11. Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs. 37 samples were taken under this heading and of these 22 conformed to guarantee, 6 were above the Statutory Statement and 9 were below the Statement.

12. Nuisances. 590 inspections were made in connection with alleged nuisances. These included 282 drainage, 203 water supplies, 42 deposits of refuse, 11 dirty houses, 6 smoke, 4 burial grounds and 42 miscellaneous. All nuisances found were remedied without recourse to official notices.

Drainage complaints mostly concerned sewer chokages and septic tanks but a few were connected with smells from ditches etc. The burial ground inspections were made at Dowally Churchyard and Blackford Cemetery with a view to the closing of these. Two of the miscellaneous visits were in connection with a dead cow which was found on the banks of a River. The carcase was subsequently disposed of.

13. Complaints. 168 complaints were received during the year as compared with 218 in 1952 and were dealt with satisfactorily by the District Inspectors without recourse to formal intimations.

14. General. During the year 5589 specific inspections were made by the Sanitary Staff as compared with 5814 during 1952. These included all branches of the work, but as in past years, many minor matters were satisfactorily dealt with on the spot by the District Inspectors and are not included in the above total.

KINROSS COUNTY

REPORT to the County Council on Non-Transferred Functions in the County of Kinross

Mr. I.R.M. Guthrie, Sanitary Inspector

1. Water Supply. The Milnathort supply again proved adequate for the immediate needs of the community, although during a dry period in the summer, for a short time there appeared the possibility of shortage. With the increased demand from new building and modernisation of many existing houses, the balance between supply and demand is becoming smaller, and augmentation is being considered. Routine samples showed the water to be satisfactory in quality.

The Kinnesswood supply was adequate but replacement of the pipe from the gathering ground to the service reservoir is under consideration. This lead pipe is very old and now much eroded apparently by the action of the ground in which it lies. The quality of the water was satisfactory.

Fossoway is supplied off the Dunfermline main, Cleish by a private supply on Cleish Estate, and most of Scotlandwell off the Fife Regional main.

Seven samples were taken from private sources during the year.

2. Drainage. There are two special districts. Milnathort is served by a system discharging through detritus chambers, septic tanks and rotary filters to the North Quiech Burn and thence to Loch Leven. The effluent is of a satisfactory standard. Kinnesswood is served by a modern sedimentation process, with effluent discharging direct to Loch Leven. The effluent from the plant is of a high standard. Sludge residue from both plants is disposed of locally for agricultural purposes.

3. Cleansing. The County Scavenging District was extended to include Keltybridge and Maryburgh, thus bringing all the populous areas in the County within the service, which is working satisfactorily. Refuse disposal is by controlled tipping at Arlary, Milnathort and Maryburgh, where waste ground is being reclaimed. The tips are visited regularly by the County Rat Catcher, and are well maintained.

4. Housing. The number of houses erected by the County Council at 31/12/52 was 108. During the year a further 18 houses were completed (six four-apartment at Milnathort, and four four-apartment at each of Powmill, Kinnesswood and Crook of Devon). At 31/12/53 a further 16 houses were under construction.

During the year 12 applications for improvement grants under Section III of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 were dealt with by the Council. Of these, 9 were approved, 2 were withdrawn and 1 was pending at the end of the year.

One application for grant in terms of Section 3 of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1952 for a four-apartment agricultural worker's house was approved.

44 applications under Building Byelaws were made during the year covering the erection of new dwelling houses etc. as well as the modernisation of existing houses.

Action in terms of Section 191 of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892 was taken in the case of two dangerous buildings in Scotlandwell.

5. Offensive Trades. There are none. The slaughterhouse at Milnathort for pigs only is well managed and maintained.

6. Burial Grounds. These are maintained in a satisfactory manner by Local Authority labour. In terms of Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, one burial was undertaken by the Local Authority during the year.

7. Factories. There are 25 mechanical and 19 non-mechanical factories in the County as well as 5 building sites which come within the scope of the Factories Acts. These were visited and in general were found to be satisfactory.

8. General. The usual run of minor complaints were dealt with during the year, and were generally remedied on intimation being given. There has been a steady reduction in the number of cases of pest infestation reported, probably attributable largely to the use of modern insecticides.

REPORTS to Town Councils on Non-Transferred Functions.

ABERFELDY

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. G.A. Sangster

1. Water Supply. The water supply is satisfactory both in quality and quantity, and during the year scraping of some of the main supply pipes was successfully carried out.

2. Drainage. The sewage works are reasonably satisfactory, but provision has been made to incorporate filters. With the increased load consideration should now be given to the installation of these.

3. Scavenging. The direct labour scavenging service is satisfactory. Warfarin rat poison was used with considerable success at the refuse coup.

4. Housing. No houses were completed by the Town Council during the year and at 31/12/53 the total number of houses completed by the Council was 138, including 15 prefabs. 12 houses were under construction at 31/12/53 and a further two had been completed by private enterprise. Three blocks of old property have been acquired by the Town Council and are being converted into flats. In addition to the above figures an uninhabited property has been acquired by the Town Council and converted into three flats. Two further blocks of old property have been acquired and plans for modernisation are being prepared. A site has also been cleared for redevelopment.

5. Factories. There are 18 mechanical and 14 non-mechanical factories in the Burgh and a total of 14 inspections were made, when several minor defects were brought to the notice of the proprietors and remedied.

6. Offensive Trades. There are none. A scheme of alterations and improvements has been completed at the slaughterhouse, which is conducted in a satisfactory manner.

7. Burial Ground. The extension of the cemetery is still under consideration, but it is proving difficult to obtain suitable ground.

8. General. The school and school hostels are well maintained.

During the year the Sanitary Inspector investigated 12 complaints of nuisance and took action where necessary.

ABERNETHY

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. A.L. Riddell

1. Water Supply. The water supply is satisfactory in quality and sufficient in quantity and the filtration plant continued to function satisfactorily.

2. Drainage. The drainage system continues to function satisfactorily.

3. Scavenging. The scavenging arrangements have proved adequate during the year.

4. Housing. No new houses were completed during the year, but it is now proposed to acquire and demolish several old properties in the centre of the town with a view to erecting new houses on these sites. The total number of houses erected by the Council is 66.

5. Factories. There are now 8 factories and workshops within the Burgh and 9 inspections were made during the year.

6. Burial Ground. This was maintained in a satisfactory condition. It has not yet been found possible to secure a site for a new burial ground and investigations are still proceeding.

7. General. During the year 54 inspections were carried out, but no serious complaints were encountered.

ALYTH

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. J. Chalmers

1. Water Supply. This continues to be ample in quantity and satisfactory in quality.

2. Drainage. The sewage system remains as previously reported.

3. Cleansing. This has been satisfactory.

4. Housing. 10 houses were completed during the year. At 31/12/53 the total number of houses provided by the Council was 191 (including 3 reconstructions) and a further 4 houses were in course of erection.

5. General. The factories were regularly visited and found satisfactory. Extensions at the school were in progress at the end of the year. The burial ground was well kept.

AUCHTERARDER

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. A. Brebner

1. Water Supply. The supply is satisfactory in quality. It is derived from springs at Duchally, an intake from Carlownie Burn and from springs at Crook of the Moss. Shortage of supply has been experienced during periods of very dry weather due primarily to the lack of yield from the springs and, to a lesser extent, to the increase in consumption occasioned by the development of new housing schemes. Investigations are proceeding with regard to sources of augmentation.

2. Drainage. The drainage and sewage systems are satisfactory.

3. Cleansing. The scavenging arrangements are satisfactory. Waste paper is collected weekly for salvage.

4. Housing. During the year 41 houses were completed, making a total of 247 erected by the Town Council.

5. Factories. There are 18 factories in the Burgh, and these have been maintained in satisfactory condition.

6. General. The burial grounds are kept in satisfactory condition. The school is well kept. There are no offensive trades.

BLAIRGOWRIE

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. W.A. Coutts

1. Water Supply. The water supply continues to be satisfactory.

2. Drainage. The scheme of modernisation at the Rattray works has been completed, except for the pumping system which will eventually carry the Rattray sewage across the River Ericht for treatment. So far no improvements have been carried out on the Blairgowrie side.

3. Cleansing. This is efficiently carried out by Burgh staff, and the coup is well managed.

4. Housing. 40 houses were completed during the year, the total number of houses provided by the Council at 31/12/53 being 136.

5. Slaughterhouse. This is fairly well looked after. No progress has been made with the proposed modernisation which has been held up by uncertainty about future policy.

6. Miscellaneous. The three schools are kept in satisfactory condition. The lodging house has now been closed. There are 109 factories in the burgh (64 mechanical and 45 non-mechanical), which have each been visited twice during the year. The burial grounds have been well maintained. Following a period of heavy rain, a landslide occurred at the churchyard at the Old Church, the ground being restored by Burgh staff.

CALLANDER

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. D.M. Thomson

1. Water Supply. The water supply is of excellent quality and ample in quantity.

2. Drainage. There is no change in the sewers and disposal system. It is fortunate that there there is a good supply of water to allow regular flushing of the branch mains, otherwise it would not be possible to avoid considerable trouble, particularly at the west end of the town.

3. Cleansing. Scavenging and collection of refuse is carried out efficiently.

4. Housing. The Town Council have erected 151 houses. No houses were completed during the year but at 31/12/53 24 houses were under construction.

5. Factories. The factories and workshops were visited regularly and found in good condition.

6. Miscellaneous. The schools are kept in a clean condition. The burial grounds are well kept.

COUPAR ANGUS

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. G.D. Oliphant

1. Water Supply. The water supply was maintained during the year, although some difficulty was experienced in supplying the higher parts of the town. Various schemes are being considered with a view to obtaining a new supply, but no definite decision has yet been reached.

2. Drainage. The sewage system has been satisfactory.

3. Cleansing. The cleansing arrangements proved satisfactory, but efforts to obtain another coup were unsuccessful.

4. Housing. 22 houses were completed during the year, making the total number built by the Town Council 184.

5. Factories. There are 14 mechanical and 5 non-mechanical factories in the Burgh and 15 inspections were made during the year.

6. General. One house is let in lodgings and is well maintained. The burial ground is in good order.

CRIEFF

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. C. Rankin

1. Water Supply. Improvements to the water mains have been completed and the water supply is now generally satisfactory in quantity and of excellent quality.

2. Drainage. The sewage system has worked efficiently.

3. Cleansing. The cleansing arrangements are satisfactory.

4. Housing. 28 houses were completed during the year, bringing the total number erected by the Town Council to 431.

5. Offensive Trades. Small improvements were carried out at the slaughterhouse, which is well kept.

6. Schools. The four schools in the Burgh are kept in a clean condition.

7. Burial Grounds. The burial grounds are well kept. Only one is now in use and extension work was completed during the year.

8. Factories. There are 47 factories in the Burgh and regular visits are paid to these.

DOUNE

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. A.J. Low

1. Water Supply. The water supply was satisfactory both in quality and quantity, but it was found that the distribution tank required repair and this was carried out.

2. Drainage. The sewage system has worked efficiently. Difficulty was experienced in Castle Road and to remedy this a 9" pipe with septic tank has been provided at the side of the Ardoch Burn, which also takes in one cottage which is below ordinary sewer level.

3. Cleansing. Scavenging and collection of refuse was efficiently carried out.

4. Housing. At 31/12/53 the Town Council had built 82 houses, including 10 which were completed in 1953.

5. Factories. The factories are kept in good condition.

6. General. Various complaints of nuisance were dealt with where necessary. The school is well kept. There are two burial grounds, the one in the Burgh being now seldom used. At the other at Kilmadock, trouble with water has been experienced and this has been found difficult to remedy.

DUNBLANE

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. B.J. McKay

1. Water Supply. The water supply is satisfactory in quality and ample in quantity. A total of 32 million gallons were pumped from the reservoir by Clackmannan County Council without any marked alteration in level. The daily consumpt at 86 gallons per head per day is still high, but was below last year's figure.

2. Drainage. The sewage system has worked efficiently.

3. Cleansing. The scavenging and refuse disposal arrangements are satisfactory.

4. Housing. No houses were completed during the year and the total number of houses built by the Town Council remains at 195.

5. Offensive Trades. There are none. The slaughterhouse is conducted in a satisfactory manner.

6. Factories. Regular visits were paid to the 17 factories in the Burgh.

7. General. The two schools are well kept and the burial grounds are in a satisfactory condition. A number of minor complaints were received and dealt with where necessary.

KINROSS

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. I.R.M. Guthrie

1. Water Supply. The supply continued to be of satisfactory quality and quantity, but is unfiltered and during the year in a few cases blockage of service pipes occurred due to accumulated vegetable matter. One of the routine samples showed excess iron, which disappeared following the annual mains scraping operations.

2. Drainage. The sewage plants remain as previously reported, both effluents discharging to Loch Leven. The south plant is overloaded, but is causing no nuisance.

3. Cleansing. Domestic refuse is uplifted thrice weekly, and disposed of at the coup near Blairadam. The arrangements are satisfactory.

4. Housing. The total number of houses erected by the Council up to 31/12/52 was 160. During the year a further 16 houses were completed (four two-apartment for Old Folks and twelve four-apartment). Three applications for Improvement Grant were received during the year, one being approved and two refused.

5. Burial Grounds. The three burial grounds are well maintained by Council staff.

6. General. There are 22 mechanical and 9 non-mechanical factories as well as 2 building sites within the scope of the Acts. These were visited and in general were found to be satisfactory. The schools were found to be well maintained.

PITLOCHRY

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. G.A. Sangster

1. Water Supply. The water supply is satisfactory in quality and adequate in quantity.

2. Drainage. The sewage works are satisfactory.

3. Cleansing. The scavenging and refuse disposal arrangements are satisfactory.

4. Housing. 10 houses were completed during the year, making a total of 130 houses completed by the Town Council. At 31/12/53 9 houses were under construction.

5. Factories. There are 17 mechanical and 15 non-mechanical factories in the Burgh and 22 inspections were made during the year.

6. General. The school is well kept. The burial ground is well kept, but is has not yet been possible to find a suitable site for extension or for a new cemetery. Various complaints were received and dealt with during the year.

APPENDIX I

VITAL STATISTICS

Details according to local areas

	Population Census 1951	Estimated Population 30/6/53	Births *	Birth Rate	Deaths *	Death Rate
Perth County	87,606	86,516	1286	14.9	1037	12.0
Landward	59,941	59,212	896	15.1	639	10,8
Aberfeldy	1,523	1,495	21	14.1	17	11.4
Abernethy	675	689	8	11.6	10	14.5
Alyth	2,072	2,057	24	11.7	26	12.6
Auchterarder	2,434	2,407	53	22.0	32	13.3
Blairgowrie	5,383	5,417	60	11.1	93	17.2
Callander	1,727	1,647	23	14.0	25	15.2
Coupar Angus	2,175	2,202	36	16.3	25	11.3
Crieff	5,473	5,450	69	12.7	85	15.6
Doune	834	870	13	15.0	12	14.4
Dunblane	2,985	2,823	40	14.2	42	14.5
Pitlochry	2,384	2,247	43	19.1	31	13.4
Kinross County	7,418	7,337	102	13.9	101	13.8
Landward	4,923	4,849	59	12.2	69	14.2
Kinross Burgh	2,495	2,488	43	17.2	32	12.9
Joint County	95,024	93,853	1286	14.9	1138	12.1

* - corrected for residence.

APPENDIX II

DISTRICT NURSING SERVICE

Summary of work done by District Nurses during the year 1953

District	Cases nursed			Nursing visits		Ante-natal visits for Confinements		Child Welfare Visits	Tuberculosis Visits	School Inspections & Visits	Misc. visits to the elderly
	General		Maternity	General	Maternity	Home	Hosp.				
	Under 65	Over 65									
Aberfeldy	63	52	2	1746	72	10	3	760	86	49	20
Aberfoyle	92	25	2	1585	56	27	84	452	36	89	8
Abernethy	54	53	4	2052	158	52	66	374	24	8	17
Almondbank	126	46	5	2313	147	68	69	591	39	45	3
Alyth	59	57	6	4049	141	54	174	1523	100	358	157
Auchterarder	52	52	23	2456	396	147	175	1273	76	84	17
Auchtergaven	247	69	9	2599	218	90	48	519	52	43	51
Balquhidder	151	36	2	1982	19	14	58	267	35	49	-
Birnam & Dunkeld	51	61	10	1338	165	98	70	651	84	83	1
Strathallan later Blackford	76	19	4	1761	142	5	62	669	48	39	5
Blairgowrie & Rattray	76	128	18	3470	296	72	41	1818	128	166	5
Braco	155	41	6	2609	128	139	61	505	19	40	6
Callander	63	51	13	2014	252	79	91	644	102	70	20
Comrie	21	87	15	3662	305	131	33	534	31	65	15
Coupar Angus	36	37	10	1597	152	170	99	1399	98	91	14
Crieff	323	209	32	6295	633	245	287	1363	117	169	25
Dunbarney	12	8	10	627	153	105	107	653	85	88	-
Dunblane	71	94	6	2836	185	58	65	691	98	62	2
Dunning	45	49	8	2183	217	81	54	579	57	54	9
East Carse	78	55	8	2172	205	123	2	909	83	204	120
Errol	63	26	11	1782	236	78	48	629	122	52	13
Fortingall	107	27	-	1643	-	-	20	100	7	22	-
Fowlis Wester	76	28	16	931	219	129	45	567	5	91	5
Glenfarg	42	37	6	1091	107	81	73	414	-	106	82
Glenlyon	128	22	-	1920	-	-	34	163	32	12	1
Kenmore	102	26	2	1184	46	16	87	263	40	39	-
Killin	24	21	3	822	29	22	82	451	-	48	-
Logierait	36	40	2	1459	43	8	16	421	-	40	-
Methven	141	45	10	1977	159	114	65	617	39	57	6
Muthill	113	49	9	2944	273	75	55	416	-	22	14
Pitlochry	99	66	12	1559	248	106	42	568	66	98	24
Rannoch & Foss	95	24	2	1207	39	8	52	315	-	72	5
Scone	93	37	14	1673	345	277	256	1365	166	189	50
Stanley	213	58	21	1955	341	168	196	1194	127	109	32
St. Martins	56	40	10	1230	164	80	74	841	91	27	14
Strathardle & Glenshee	63	20	8	877	138	51	16	479	24	112	-
Thornhill	73	18	7	1934	160	80	48	490	51	84	9
Vale of Teith	96	63	4	2275	167	106	127	1509	61	105	275
West Carse	66	27	8	1677	182	60	45	450	7	20	8
West Atholl	110	43	14	1306	283	126	20	578	56	65	3
Fossoway	18	23	6	2150	163	47	78	470	12	67	7
Kinross	31	34	33	2490	651	190	162	1443	149	245	20
Milnathort	46	49	6	2728	112	99	145	525	99	86	29
	3742	2052	397	88160	8145	3689	3435	30442	2552	3624	1092

APPENDIX III

LIST OF STAFF

County Medical Officer	James Kelman, M.D., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officers	James A. Sellar, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Elizabeth T. MacDougall, M.B., Ch.B.
Senior Dental Officer	William C. Arkle (Resigned 15/1/53) Michael R. Kirkland, L.D.S. (Appointed 1/9/53)
Assistant Dental Officers	Mrs. M.S. Black, L.D.S. Christian J. Brunton, L.D.S. Elizabeth J. Mann, L.D.S.
Superintendent Nursing Officer	Elspeth L. Brown, R.G.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.
Assistant Superintendent Nursing Officer	Jessie S. Waters, R.G.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. (Appointed 16/7/53)
Chief Administrative Assistant	William Brannan
Children's Officer	Frederick J. Earnshaw
Senior Physiotherapist	Agnes C. Hampton
County Sanitary Inspector	Alexander L. Riddell
District Sanitary Inspectors	
Eastern	George D. Oliphant
Highland	George A. Sangster
Perth/Central	George V. Hadden (Senior)
Western	Alexander J. Low
Kinross	C.M. Stevenson (Resigned 15/1/53) Ian R.M. Guthrie (Appointed 16/2/53)

COUNTIES OF PERTH AND KINROSS

REPORTS

on the

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE COUNTIES

and

THE BURGHS OF

ABERNETHY, ABERFELDY, ALYTH, AUCHTERARDER, BLAIRGOWRIE AND RATTRAY, CALLANDER, COUPAR ANGUS, CRIEFF, DOUNE, DUNBLANE KINROSS AND PITLOCHRY

for the year

1954

by

JAMES KELMAN, M.D., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

VITAL STATISTICS

1. General. The principal vital statistics for the year 1954 are shown below. The rates are after correction for transfer, and in the case of deaths, the rates after correction for age and sex are shown in brackets.

	Perth County	Kinross County	Combined County
(a) Population	86,344	7,437	93,781
(b) Total Births	1,356	101	1,457
Birth Rates	15.7	13.6	15.5
(c) Total Deaths	1,132	102	1,234
Death Rates	13.1 (10.2)	13.7 (12.0)	13.2 (10.4)
(d) Infantile Mortality Rate	18	40	20

2. Births. The birth rate per thousand of the population for the Combined County is 15.5, slightly higher than last year. The figures for previous years were 1949 - 16.0; 1950 - 15.6; 1951 - 14.4; 1952 - 14.9 and 1953 - 14.8. The figure for Scotland was 18, a slight increase on last year, the figures for previous years being 17.8 for 1953, 17.7 for 1952 and 1951, 17.9 for 1950 and 18.5 for 1949.

The birth rate for the Burghs is slightly higher than that for the Landward area, the Burgh rate being 15.9 as against 15.4 for Landward.

The figures for illegitimate births during the year were:- Perth County 6.0%, Kinross County 5.9%, Combined County 6.0%, the rate being slightly lower than last year. The figure for Scotland was 4.5%.

The still birth rate (per thousand births including still births) was 23, as against 21 last year. The corresponding figure for Scotland was 25, the same as last year.

3. Deaths. The death rate for the Combined County was 10.4 per thousand of the population, compared to 9.5 for 1953 and 10.3 for 1952. The figure for Scotland was 12.0.

Of the 1234 deaths during 1954, 908 had attained the age of 65 and upwards, giving a senile death rate of 73.6% of the deaths, compared to 71.4 and 72.8 in 1953 and 1952 respectively. 614 persons had attained the age of 75 years and upwards (49.8% of the total deaths) and 167 persons had attained the age of 85 years and upwards (13.5% of the total deaths).

Of the 812 persons who attained the age of 65 years and upwards, 436 (48%) were males and 472 (52%) were females. The corresponding figures for later ages were 75 years and upwards, males 278 (45%), females 336 (55%); 85 years and upwards males 69 (41%) and females 98 (59%).

Heart Disease. Heart disease caused 419 deaths, giving a rate of 4.43 per thousand of the population. This compared with 4.43 for 1953, 4.58 for 1952 and 5.39 for 1951. 343 (82%) of the deaths occurred at age 65 and upwards.

Cancer. Cancer and other malignant conditions caused 233 deaths, giving a death rate of 2.48 per thousand, compared to 2.04 for last year. 145 (62%) occurred at the age of 65 and upwards, compared to 106 (55%) last year.

Cerebral Haemorrhage. Cerebral haemorrhage accounted for 209 deaths, giving a death rate of 2.23 compared to 2.01 for last year. 179 (85%) of the deaths occurred at the age of 65 and upwards, compared to 146 (77%) last year.

Tuberculosis. Tuberculosis caused 9 deaths, giving a rate of 0.10 per thousand of the population, the lowest figure yet recorded. The rates for previous years were 0.20 for 1950, 0.18 for 1951, 0.12 for 1952 and 0.15 for 1953, the corresponding figures for Scotland being 0.54, 0.43, 0.32, 0.26 and 0.22 for the years 1950-54 respectively.

All of the 9 deaths were due to pulmonary tuberculosis (0.10 per thousand compared to 0.12 for last year). The 1954 figure for Scotland was 0.20 per thousand.

For the first time there were no deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The rate for Scotland was 0.02 per thousand.

Respiratory Disease, (excluding pulmonary tuberculosis) accounted for 47 deaths, giving a death rate of 0.50 per thousand, compared to .44 for 1953. Bronchitis caused 18 deaths, of which 14 occurred at the age of 65 years and upwards, pneumonia caused 22 deaths, of which 2 occurred at ages of less than one year, and other respiratory diseases caused 7 deaths.

Violent Deaths numbered 60, of which 3 were due to suicide, 21 to road accidents and 36 to other forms of violence.

Maternal Mortality. There were three deaths from puerperal causes, giving a rate of 2.05 per thousand births, compared to 0.72 for last year.

Infant Mortality. There were 29 deaths at ages less than one year, giving an infantile mortality rate of 20 per thousand births, compared with last year's record figure of 17 per thousand births, the previous lowest record being 25.7 for 1948. The figure for Scotland was 31, the same as last year.

Of the 29 deaths during the year, only 3 fell into the theoretically preventable group (pneumonia 3). The other 26 deaths were due to the group of causes which includes congenital debility, prematurity and malformations, compared to 18 deaths from these causes in 1953.

There were 34 stillbirths, giving a stillbirth rate of 24.0 per thousand total births, including stillbirths, compared to an average of 21.7 for the years 1949-53.

MEDICAL AND NURSING SERVICES

The general arrangements have remained unchanged.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the following gifts made by Nursing Associations during the year, which are greatly appreciated: Fortingall - furnishings; West Carse - car and electric cooker; Balquhidder - chair; Abernethy - furnishings; Dunkeld - furnishings; Muthill - nursing equipment.

No new houses were completed during the year. At Dunblane, a nurse's house with a major clinic is in course of erection. At Strathyre a nurse's house with dispensary is being built as part of a Forestry Scheme. At Auchterarder, where the nurse occupies a Council house, the proposed flat over the clinic in High Street is still under consideration. At Glenlyon improvements have been carried out on the nurse's house, which belongs to the Estate. A new house is planned for this area, probably further down the Glen, but in view of the Hydro works in the area, it is necessary to continue with the present house meantime. At Pitlochry, new accommodation will be required, as the present house will now only be available for a further short period. At Crieff, a small clinic with waiting room is to be provided.

The information given below is in the form called for by the Department of Health for Scotland. All the Nursing Services are carried out by the District Nurses and the District figures are tabulated at the end of this Report.

1. Care of Mothers and Young Children.

(a) Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics. No clinics are held in the County, but County patients attend at the clinics run by Perth Infirmary and Stirling Infirmary in these cities in conjunction with the local Health authorities. During 1954, 404 cases from the Joint County received ante-natal and/or post-natal care at the Perth Clinic, making 2155 attendances. Figures for Stirling Infirmary are not available.

(b) Child Welfare Clinics. All the child welfare work in the County is carried out by the District Nurses as Health Visitors, but during 1954 24 children from the surrounding area made 69 attendances at Perth City Clinics.

(c) Dental Care. Under the priority dental scheme, 66 expectant mothers, 95 nursing mothers and 1 pre-school child received treatment during the year.

(d) Mother and Baby Homes. None are provided.

(e) Day Nurseries. None are provided.

(f) Residential Nurseries and Children's Homes. It has not yet been found possible to provide Homes for this group, but proposals are at present under consideration whereby arrangements would be made to accommodate all the babies requiring residential accommodation in Pitversie Nursery, Abernethy. During the year 8 children were accommodated in Westbank Nursery belonging to Perth City and a further 48 in Pitversie Nursery.

(g) Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948. No applications have been received under this Act.

(h) Family Planning. Advice is available to County cases at the Mothers' Welfare Clinic, Perth, and the Stirling Family Planning Clinic, both run by voluntary agencies with small grants from the County Council.

During the year 1954, 235 cases attended the Perth Clinic and 8 old cases and 21 new cases made 59 attendances at the Stirling Clinic.

(i) Melville House, Perth. This organisation is largely supported by local authorities and during the year 28 cases (11 maternity, 7 family and 10 adoption) were dealt with.

(j) Welfare Foods. As from 28th June, 1954, responsibility for the distribution of Welfare Foods was transferred to the County Council. Since the inception of the scheme during the war, practically all the local distribution in the County had been carried out by the District Nurses on behalf of the Ministry of Food who dealt with all the central recording and ordering. Under the new arrangement, the County Council became responsible for both administration and distribution. This duty was accepted with some reluctance, since, although it was appreciated that a close link up with the District Nurses was desirable, it had been hoped that some other means of distribution would have been found and thus obviate the absorption of a material amount of the District Nurses' time, time which could be employed to greater advantage in other directions.

On the administrative side it was obvious that a joint scheme with Perth City was advisable and this was arranged, the whole of the central administration being carried out in the Welfare Foods Department set up at the office of the City Medical Officer of Health, where welfare foods are also sold direct to City and County residents. At the takeover there was a very large postal trade, but this was diverted to the local centres in the County. Altogether there are fifty-one distribution centres in the County, of which nine are manned by voluntary service, the rest by the District Nurses.

The arrangements have worked well, but it is extremely doubtful if the scheme is as economical as it appears to be. It has not been found possible to obtain voluntary assistance to relieve the nurses of the actual distribution and the cost in nurses' time is relatively high and considerable clerical work is involved in the complicated recording system with the continued use of stamped tokens. Altogether it is suggested that the cost of commercial distribution is unlikely to be any greater than the real cost of the present system, and with propaganda on the lines used for immunisation, the results in terms of uptake are unlikely to be any less favourable than it is at present.

2. Midwifery Service. 707 births occurred in the area during the year, of which 696 were live births and 11 still births. Of the 707 births, 279 took place in institutions and 428 at home. 426 of the home confinements were attended by the District Nurses and 2 by private practising midwives. In 251 of these cases a doctor had been engaged and was present at the confinement; in 169 cases a doctor had been engaged, but was not present at the confinement.

All the district nurses are trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and sets of apparatus are available in every district. During the year gas and air analgesia was administered in 209 cases and pethidine was administered in 211 cases.

3. Health Visiting. A total of 35,507 visits were paid by the District Nurses as Health Visitors. Of these, 3238 visits were paid to expectant mothers, including 764 first visits; 13534 visits were paid to children under the age of one year, including 2824 first visits; 14331 visits were paid to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years including 5690 first visits; and 2895 visits were paid for advisory purposes to persons suffering from tuberculosis.

4. Home Nursing. A total of 88,814 home nursing visits were made by the District Nurses during the year to a total of 5845 persons. An increasing number of visits was made to give injections of various sorts, chiefly antibiotics, but of the total visits, 52154 were paid to a total of 2130 elderly persons over the age of sixty-five.

5. Domestic Help. During the year 43 parttime domestic helps were employed under the Domestic Help Scheme and 86 cases were dealt with, made up as follows:- home confinements, 12; tuberculosis cases, 7; miscellaneous cases, mainly old people no longer able to manage alone, 67.

6. Vaccination and Immunisation.

Vaccination. The number of vaccinations notified during the year was 992 Information abstracted from the Child Welfare Records shows that at 31/12/54, 65% of children aged 0 - 12 months had been vaccinated. Considering that this group includes a number of children too young to have been vaccinated, the figure can be regarded as satisfactory. This is borne out by the figures for children aged 1 - 5 years, 82% of whom had been vaccinated. Records of school medical examinations show that 79% of those examined during the year ending 31/7/54 had been vaccinated. The percentage varied slightly between the groups: entrants 77%, 1944 group 82%, 1940 group 79% and 1937 group 80%.

Diphtheria Immunisation. During 1954, 1179 children were notified as having been immunised and 1129 received a reinforcing dose. Information abstracted from the child welfare records shows that at 31/12/54 the overall percentage of children aged 1 - 5 years immunised against diphtheria remained at the very satisfactory figure of 86%.

It is again gratifying to record that no confirmed cases of diphtheria occurred in this area during the year, the last cases having occurred in October, 1947 and the last deaths in 1944.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough. During the year the Council agreed to provide for immunisation against whooping cough, in the form of a combined prophylactic against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, which was made available from 1/8/54. By the end of the year 22% of babies aged 0 - 12 months on the Child Welfare Lists had been immunised against whooping cough, a satisfactory result considering that one-third of these babies were too young to have been immunised and that the scheme had only been available for five months.

Propaganda. The excellent response to vaccination and immunisation in this area is very largely due to the efforts of the District Nurses in co-operation with the family doctors. Figures are abstracted twice a year and the summarised results, detailed for each District, are issued both to District Nurses and family doctors in the area. As a result, over the last few years the variations between districts have been levelled up very considerably. No other form of propaganda is employed.

7. Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care.

Tuberculosis. The close association between the staff of the County Health Department and the Area Tuberculosis Physician continues. Much of the immediate preventive work e.g. examination of contacts, is done by the Area Tuberculosis Physician on behalf of the County Council, but the County Council has this year introduced a scheme for the tuberculin testing and B.C.G. vaccination where necessary of school leavers, and details of this are given below.

The table below gives comparative figures dating back to pre-war years.

	Average 1931-35	Average 1936-40	Average 1941-45	Average 1946-50	1951	1952	1953	1954
New confirmed cases:-								
Respiratory	53	54	58	75	75	75	74	58
Non-respiratory	54	57	53	27	23	21	24	23
Cases on list at 31st Dec.								
Respiratory	145	164	166	255	342	370	384	446
Non-respiratory	163	222	203	161	120	116	120	122
Number of cases receiving Institutional treatment	115	119	139	123	170	172	175	140*
Deaths:								
Respiratory	32	26	29	26	15	7	11	9
Non-respiratory	14	11	15	5	3	4	3	0

* Respiratory cases only

The number of new respiratory cases this year shows a definite fall. From 1946 onwards the annual numbers obstinately remained at a level 50% above pre-war and this year's figure of 58, the same as the average for the war years, is encouraging. There were 446 respiratory cases remaining on the list at 31/12/54, this high figure being an accumulated carryover from the higher incidence of the last few years. 140 respiratory cases received hospital care, the same as last year, with no delay in admission.

The new non-respiratory cases numbered 23, about the average for the last ten years. Since bovine infection has been virtually eliminated, it is to be anticipated that a fall in the number of respiratory cases will also be reflected in a corresponding fall in the non-respiratory cases. For the first time, no death from non-respiratory tuberculosis occurred during the year.

294 contacts of pulmonary cases were examined, an average of nearly 5 contacts per confirmed case, resulting in the discovery of five new cases. In addition 16 contacts of non-pulmonary cases were examined.

Under the general scheme providing for B.C.G. vaccination, 313 persons were tuberculin tested. Of these 156 were found to be tuberculin negative and 160 were successfully vaccinated. These figures do not include the group of school leavers, which are dealt with separately below.

During the year extra nourishment grants were given in 34 cases and as usual sputum containers and disinfectants were supplied where required.

B.C.G. Vaccination of School Children. During 1953, the County Council approved a scheme to provide B.C.G. vaccination for pupils about to leave school. Although this scheme was made under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947, it was found administratively convenient to carry it out within the framework of the School Health Service, particularly since Perth Town Council simultaneously adopted a similar scheme, and it was thus possible to operate both schemes uniformly throughout the area during the school session 1953-54. Full details of the work done under the scheme during the year have already been issued as a separate Report, but the summarised results are shown in Appendix III and they bring out a number of interesting points.

The children concerned were those whose fifteenth birthday fell during 1954 or earlier, and the scheme is run on a voluntary basis, written parental consent being required. There was an overall acceptance rate of 84%. 2054 children were tuberculin tested, with an overall positive rate of 38%, and 1239 children received B.C.G. vaccination.

As far as the County is concerned, the difference between boys (36% positive) and girls (39% positive) is small, but there are wide differences between individual schools, varying from 17% positive at Methven to 56% positive at Coupar Angus. It is remarkable how closely the positive percentages mirror the rate at which dairy herds were cleaned up. In the Perth District, this occurred early and the positive rate is 27%. In the Kinross District (46% positive) and particularly in the Alyth-Coupar Angus area (53% positive) adequate Tuberculin Tested or pasteurised sources of milk have only become available within the past three or four years.

One drawback of the scheme was that the children vaccinated were too close to the actual leaving date to allow of adequate retesting and follow-up. The scheme was therefore amended to provide for B.C.G. vaccination of children between their thirteenth and fourteenth year. It was also agreed to introduce tuberculin testing of school entrants as a case-finding procedure, but it has not yet been possible to introduce this.

8. Infectious Disease. During the year 1954, the death rate per thousand of the population from the principal infectious diseases was 0.02 for the combined County, compared to an average of 0.08 for the previous five years.

The number of confirmed cases of infectious disease coming to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health, whether by notification or otherwise, is shown below:-

Cerebro-Spinal Fever	6	Pneumonia, not otherwise notifiable	15
Diphtheria	-	Poliomyelitis	3
Dysentery	16	Puerperal Fever	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	Puerperal Pyrexia	4
Erysipelas	8	Scarlet Fever	113
Jaundice, acute infective	1	Tuberculosis, pulmonary	58
Malaria	-	Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary	23
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	Typhoid	-
Pneumonia, acute influenzal	1	Paratyphoid	-
Pneumonia, acute primary	10	Whooping Cough	410

The general level of incidence of infectious diseases remained low, although there was a rise in the number of notifications of whooping cough, the figure being 410 as against 174 for last year. The cases were scattered throughout the County and occurred steadily during the year, there being no one area or time of year when the incidence was more pronounced. The number of notifications of scarlet fever had dropped to 113, the number for last year being 186, and again the cases were of a mild type. Figures for pneumonia were slightly lower than last year. There were three cases of poliomyelitis, the average for the years 1949-53 being 4.

9. Venereal Diseases. The figures for new cases from this area in attendance at the clinics at Perth, Dundee and Stirling are shown below:-

	Perth	Dundee	Stirling	Totals
(a) Syphilis	3	3	1	7
(b) Gonorrhoea	5	2	1	8
(c) Other venereal conditions	10	13	-	23
Total	18	18	2	38
(d) Non-venereal conditions	2	3	1	6
	20	21	6	45

The figures for last year were Perth 27; Dundee 12; and Stirling 6.

10. Mental Health Services. During the year 22 persons were admitted to Mental Hospitals at the instance of Authorised Officers as follows:- Murthly Hospital 11, Murray Royal, Perth 9 and Stratheden Hospital, Cupar 2. Of this number 7 were admitted as voluntary patients.

Three cases were certified as mental defectives during the year, one being admitted to Baldovan Institution, Dundee, and two to Waverley Park Institution, Kirkintilloch.

No mental defectives were boarded out. The number under guardianship at the end of the year was six.

On behalf of the Eastern Regional Hospital Board statutory supervision and aftercare were given to 8 persons suffering from mental illness and who had been placed under guardianship or allowed out from Hospital on probation.

Extensive use continued to be made of the Perth Mental Health Clinic throughout the year.

11. Orthopaedic Service. During the year the Orthopaedic Scheme was carried out as formerly on behalf of the Regional Hospital Board. The undernoted figures show the work done during the year:-

	Pre-school		School children		Adults		Total
	City	County	City	County	City	County	
Attendances at Surgeon's Clinics	404	562	678	1128	3	47	2922
Cases under treatment	71	159	178	187	-	4	599
Cases under observation	85	138	114	93	3	8	441
Number of treatments	604	2424	3355	3803	-	116	10302
New cases during year	87	150	126	167	-	16	546
Discharges during year	27	24	154	187	7	23	422
Admissions to Bridge of Earn	6	7	20	42	-	-	75
Admissions to Fairmilehead	-	-	-	1	-	-	1

12. Epileptics and Spastics. The Department of Health has requested that information be given about the prevalence of epilepsy and cerebral palsy in the area.

Epilepsy. Information on this subject is very incomplete. At 31/7/55 School Health Records showed seven County school children with mild epilepsy and six with severe epilepsy. Information from the Ministry of Labour showed that there were some ten persons on the Disabled Persons' Register on account of epilepsy. No information is so far available about pre-school children.

Spastics. The County Health Department is collaborating in a Regional Survey of Spastics aged 21 or under, and all known diagnosed or doubtful cases are at present being reviewed. 71 cases have been listed for review, the probable number of confirmed cases being in the neighbourhood of 60, which includes all types ranging from the very mild to the most severe associated with gross mental defect. There are only three cases registered as Disabled Persons on account of this condition, but some ten further probable adult cases have come to notice through the recently formed Perthshire Branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

13. Health Education. The usual short talks and demonstrations on Health topics were given during the year by the District Nurses to Women's Organisations, mostly W.R.I. meetings, the total number being 39 lectures and 9 demonstrations. Five meetings were held for various adult organisations at which a talk was given by a member of the staff of the County Health Department.

14. Registration of Nursing Homes. There are three private Nursing Homes registered in the area:-

1 at Crieff (Medical only)
1 at Aberfoyle (Medical only)
1 at Callander (Medical only)

15. Convalescent Homes. None are provided by the County Council, but County patients are admitted to the Brahan, Perth (17 beds) maintained by the Hospital Authority. There are two voluntary homes taking convalescent patients: The Foresters' Convalescent Home, Kinbuck (26 beds), Buchanan Home, Blairgowrie (10 beds). One voluntary holiday home, The Knowe, Callander, takes occasional convalescent cases, and one private boarding house in Alyth (up to 6 beds) makes special provision for persons requiring convalescence. With the exception of the Buchanan Home, most of these Homes cater for persons from outwith the County, and it is apparent that the County is badly off for this type of accommodation.

SCHOOL HEALTH

A separate report has been issued for the year ended 31st July, 1954.

WELFARE SERVICE

Residential Accommodation. Admissions and discharges during the year to the County Council's Residential Homes were as follows:-

	Strathearn	Cuil-an-Daraich	Cottage Home	St. John's Mount
In residence at 31/12/53	29	26	7	6
Admissions during year	17	21	3	6
Discharges during year	18	22	3	6
In residence at 31/12/54	28	25	7	6

Voluntary Homes for Old People with which agreements had been entered into to pay supplementation for those residents in the Homes unable to meet the full maintenance charge numbered seven.

The Homes and the number of residents for whom payment was made during the year were as follows:-

Belmont Castle Eventide Home, Meigle	8
David Watson Home, Gargunnock	2
Hope Park Home, Blairgowrie	12
Mailler Home, Auchterarder	5
Whitelaw Home of Rest, Auchterarder	4
Auchinlea Home, Campbeltown	1
Oswald House, Edinburgh	1

No temporary accommodation required to be provided during the year.

Hospital Care. Hospital accommodation continues to be provided on behalf of the Eastern Regional Hospital Board for long term sick cases in Strathearn Home and Cuil-an-Daraich.

Admissions and discharges during the year were as follows:-

	Strathearn	Cuil-an-Daraich
In Sick Beds at 31/12/53	33	16
Admissions during year	14	8
Discharges and deaths during year	16	7
In Sick Beds at 31/12/54	31	17

Welfare of the Aged. The formation of local Old People's Welfare Committees continued to make good progress during the year, nine new Committees having been formed, making the total number functioning at the end of the year thirteen. These have mainly been set up in the Burghs, but one has been formed in the Highland District to cover the whole of that area outwith the Burghs. In addition in one or two of the smaller communities where the feeling has been that the setting up of a Committee would not be justified one of the existing local organisations has undertaken to see to the welfare of the old people in the area.

The purpose of these Committees is in conjunction with the statutory authorities to provide a comprehensive and adequate Welfare Service for all groups of old people in the district. The majority are operating a Visiting Service under which regular visits are made to old people living alone and several either on their own or in conjunction with other local organisations are providing a chiropody service. One Old People's Welfare Committee and one other Committee are operating a Meals Service for Old People whereby a mid-day meal is provided on several days per week at a small charge to old people living alone and who are unable to prepare adequate meals themselves. Two Committees have provided recreation rooms where the old people can meet during the week.

In accordance with a decision of the Regional Advisory Committee on the Welfare of the Aged for the Eastern Region there was set up during the year an Area Advisory Committee for Perth and Perthshire composed of representatives of the Local Hospital Boards of Management, the local Health and Welfare Authorities, the local Executive Council and the local Medical Committee. The main purpose of the Committee is to keep the combined services for the welfare of the aged under review and to deal with points of difficulty and doubt arising at a local level. The main problem with which the Committee is concerned at present is the provision of suitable accommodation and attention for those old people known as "the frail ambulants".

Welfare Services for Handicapped Persons.

(a) Blind. The duties of the Council in relation to the blind and partially sighted persons continues to be carried out on their behalf by the Society for Teaching the Blind to Read in the County and City of Perth. During the year ended 31/3/54 16 persons were certified blind and registered for the first time. The total number of blind persons on the Register at the end of the year was 141. Details of these cases are as follows:-

Age Groups:	5-15	16-20	21-39	40-59	60-69	70+	Total
	6	1	16	24	25	69	141

Children (1 - 15)	At School	1
	Not at school (includes 4 additionally handicapped)	5
Adults	In sheltered employment - Workshops for the Blind	9
	In other employment	5
	Undergoing training	1
	Not available for employment - housewives, retired persons, etc.	100
	Not capable of work	20

(b) Deaf and Dumb. The duties of the Council in relation to deaf and dumb persons are mainly performed on their behalf by the Dundee Mission to the Deaf and Dumb. The activities of the Mission include a visiting service, efforts to secure the early admission of deaf children to special schools for the deaf, placement of school leavers and others in employment, and social and recreational facilities. There were 8 persons on the Register of Deaf and Dumb Persons at the end of the year.

(c) Other Handicapped Persons. During the year the County Council were responsible for the maintenance of two cases in Anton House for Cripple Girls, one in Derwen Cripples College, one in the Chalfont Epileptic Colony and one in the Epileptic Colony, Bridge of Weir.

The scheme for the training of home-bound persons based on Anton House continued to make progress during the year. At the end of the year there were ten cases from this area being trained or supervised. Special knitting machines were purchased and given out on loan to two cases during the year.

Removal of Persons in urgent need of care. There were no cases necessitating the use of compulsory powers of removal during the year.

Care of Property of Persons admitted to Hospital, etc. Arrangements required to be made for the protection of property in two new cases. Including property taken into care in previous years protection was being given in twelve cases during the year.

Burial or Cremation of the Dead. During the year the burial of twenty persons was carried out.

Registration of Old People's Homes. No new Homes were registered during the year, the number on the Register at the end of the year being eight.

CHILDREN

Mr. F. J. Earnshaw, Children's Officer

1. Children Act. The number of children in care during the year was as follows:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Children in care as at 1/1/54	64	50	114
Children received into care during year	70	37	107
	134	87	221
Children discharged from care during year	76	41	117
Children in care as at 31/12/54	58	46	104

Details of the children in care on 31/12/54 are as follows:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Boarded-out with relatives	15	14	29
Boarded-out with foster-parents	15	11	26
Kippen House, Dunning	10	5	15
Pitversie Nursery, Abernethy	3	4	7
Dr. Barnardo's Homes	3	3	6
The Orphanage, Aberlour	2	3	5
Levenhall Home for Boys, Musselburgh	1	-	1
Children over school leaving age under supervision	9	6	15
	58	46	104

117 children were discharged from care for the following reasons:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Returned to care of parents	66	34	100
Adopted	4	4	8
Attained age of 18 years	3	2	5
Other reasons	3	1	4
	76	41	117

During the year, one girl was committed to care by the Court, and one girl placed under the supervision of the Children's Officer for three years.

2. Kippen House, Dunning.

(a) Improvements. Additional improvements carried out during the year included the installation of a fish frier which is proving to be a great asset. The floors have been completely covered with linoleum and, with the use of an electric polisher, the work of keeping the floors clean has been greatly reduced. A drying room has been added to the laundry and will be a great advantage during the winter months and wet weather. The toilet facilities, which are now complete, have necessitated some reconstruction, thus leaving no spare accommodation in the Home. To overcome this, two rooms which have been used for storage have been made habitable, and brought into use. A second-hand piano has been purchased and is a great asset for concerts and parties. In addition, if any child has been taking piano lessons, every effort will be made to continue these.

(b) Staff. Various changes have taken place during the year, but fortunately there has been little difficulty in maintaining the full complement.

(c) Social Activities. The social life in the Home is full of variety. Various events and outings have taken place regularly since the Home was set up, and are now treated as permanent fixtures. The annual outing to Leven, and the day at St. Andrews as guests of the Perth Ladies' Circle were both happy and enjoyable outings. Members of the Scout Troop had a good week under canvas at Arbroath, and, although the weather was not very kind, the camp was a great success. The Cubs and Guides were also at Arbroath, and had a most enjoyable time.

A visit to Billy Smart's Circus caused great excitement. Needless to say, it is an outing which appeals to every child. Guy Fawkes Night, although bitterly cold, was greatly enjoyed. A

hugh bonfire, fireworks and "dooking" for apples was enjoyed by children and staff alike. Once again, Bill Wilkie and his Concert Party put on a show in the Ballroom. The evening was a great success. The Christmas Party, with the "Punch and Judy" man, was very exciting and, of course, Santa Claus was as popular as ever. The children helped to make the fun, and some contributed to the success by giving a recitation or song.

The small Whist Drive organised by a local Committee was very well patronised. The proceeds, as well as all other donations received by the Matron, are placed in the "Children's Fund" and spent wholly on the children. It was pleasing to have a visit from the members of Luncarty W.R.I., who provided a picnic tea for the children at Kippen. Sweets, etc. were also distributed, and all had a very enjoyable evening.

(d) General. The number of children passing through the Home continues to be fairly high, although, towards the end of the year, the numbers had been greatly reduced. This was mainly due to certain children being returned to their parents from whom they had been separated for some considerable time.

The happy atmosphere which always prevails is largely due to the Matron and her Staff, who at all times endeavour to maintain a cheerful and happy atmosphere in the Home.

	Boys	Girls	Total
Children in Home as at 1/1/54	20	6	26
Children admitted during year	32	24	56
	52	30	82
Children discharged during year	41	26	67
Children in Home as at 31/12/54	11	4	15

3. **After-Care.** During the year, 23 children in care were supervised. One boy, who qualified for a University course, decided to have a career in the Royal Navy and competed for a Commission in the Fleet Air Arm. He was the youngest as well as the most successful applicant and will have the opportunity of studying for a degree in Engineering.

Details of children supervised are as follows:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
In Fleet Air Arm	1	-	1
Domestic	-	1	1
Clerkess	-	1	1
Sawmill Labourer	1	-	1
Farm Worker	3	1	4
Builder's Labourer	1	-	1
Trainee Nurse	-	1	1
Nurseryman	2	-	2
Apprentice Chartered Accountant	1	-	1
Apprentice Plumber	1	-	1
Apprentice Joiner	3	-	3
Apprentice Electrician	1	-	1
Cinema Projectionist	1	-	1
Receptionist	-	1	1
Factory Worker	-	2	2
Shop Assistant	-	1	1
	15	8	23

4. **Nursery Accommodation.** An agreement has now been made with Pitversie Nursery, Abernethy, for accommodation of nursery children. This arrangement should be sufficient to meet the demand, and it is not intended to make any further use of Westbank Nursery, Perth.

Details of Nursery children dealt with during the year are as follows:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Westbank Nursery, Perth.			
Children in Nursery as at 1/1/54	1	3	4
Children admitted during year	3	1	4
	4	4	8
Children discharged during year	4	4	8
Children in Nursery as at 31/12/54	-	-	-
Pitversie Nursery, Abernethy.			
Children in Nursery as at 1/1/54	2	6	8
Children admitted during year	27	13	40
	29	19	48
Children discharged during year	26	15	41
Children in Nursery as at 31/12/54	3	4	7

5. **Adoption.** During the year, Adoption Orders were granted in respect of eight children who were in the Council's care. Two children were placed for adoption and of these one Adoption Order has been granted, leaving one in respect of whom an Adoption Order is pending. Two boys who had been boarded-out with foster-parents since an early age were legally adopted.

There are still many suitable couples anxious to adopt young children. Quite a number have been on waiting lists for some time, particularly those who wish a baby girl.

Intimations of intention to apply for an Adoption Order numbered twenty-six, and in all thirty-five cases were supervised during the probationary period.

6. **Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act, 1937.** Three new notifications in terms of Part 1 were received during the year. One was removed from the Register, making six on the Register at 31/12/54.

7. **Children neglected or ill-treated in their own homes.** The position regarding the Co-ordinating Committee remains static, due to the lack of co-operation from the R.S.S.P.C.C. Many enquiries are received regarding problem families, and it is felt that a great deal more could be done for some of the families if there was a system of co-ordination. It is hoped that a further effort to institute such a system will be more successful.

8. **Prevention of break-up of Families.** In this area the Children's Department operates as an integral part of the County Health Department and as a result there is very close contact particularly with the School Health and Nursing Services. There is also very good relationship with the Inspectors of the R.S.S.P.C.C. From the outset, the Children's Officer has directed his efforts towards maintaining the family as a unit, by enlisting the resources available in the County Health Department or through voluntary agencies or on occasion by taking children into care temporarily to allow home difficulties to settle down. These efforts have met with considerable success but it will be appreciated that this type of work does not readily lend itself to expression in actual figures.

9. **General Remarks.** Increasing efforts are being made to prevent children from coming into care, or to be separated from their own homes or their own people. The County Housing Committee and the small Burgh Housing Authorities have agreed to give sympathetic consideration to families who, through lack of housing, are separated. Already by allocating a house, one family where there were eight children and another where there were three have now all been united together as a normal family. In many cases, the attention of the appropriate Department is not drawn to the family's plight timeously, with the result that there is little or no opportunity to deal with the problem other than by taking children into care.

FOOD SUPPLY

1. **Food and Drugs.**

Sampling. During the year ended 31/12/54, 511 samples were taken and submitted for analysis, compared with 566 samples during the previous year.

Of this total 482 were informal samples comprising 331 milk (10 non-genuine); ice cream 14 (1 non-genuine); mince 7 (1 non-genuine); sausages 5; butter 5; margarine 6; oils and fats 5; cheese 8 (2 non-genuine); condensed milk 4; meat pastes 8; tinned foods 17; Jams and jellies 6; sauces and pickles 7; cereals 15; aerated water 4; ales 2; honey 2; coffee 3; tea 6; cocoa 1; whisky 1; medicines 7; spices 4; baking powder 4; miscellaneous foodstuffs 10.

Of the non-genuine informal samples 10 were of milk. These all showed a slight deficiency in milk fat and solids not fat, and had all been taken by request of the owners of dairy herds so that they might ascertain the cause of these deficiencies. In all these cases it was found that after a change of feeding had been arranged, further samples were in order.

In the case of the non-genuine sample of ice cream, this was taken at the request of the dealer, who was just starting in business as an ice cream manufacturer, and who wished to find out how his sample stood in relation to the official standard. This sample showed 4.38% fat instead of the minimum of 5%, but further samples since taken were well above the standard.

One informal sample of mince was reported by the Analyst to be in a state of incipient putrefaction. This sample had been taken following a complaint by the butcher of the quality of meat with which he had been supplied. Arrangements were made to have the meat destroyed and notification was made to the suppliers.

Two informal samples of cheese were reported as unfit for human consumption. These were taken from a private household where the housewife was in the habit of manufacturing cheese at home for her own consumption, and who alleged that the failure of her cheese making was due to a fault in her milk supply. The milk supply was tested and found to be in order, but the Analyst reported that the method of manufacture of the cheese was unsatisfactory and in the normal state of affairs could not result in a satisfactory product. This information was passed to the householder and no further complaints have since been received.

29 official samples were taken during the year, compared to 50 in 1953. These comprised 10 milk; 2 sausages; 6 mince; 6 ice cream (1 not genuine) and 5 whisky.

The non-genuine sample of Ice Cream was 2.10 deficient in milk fat. The vendor had previously appeared before the Court on similar charges and was fined £20. He was subsequently asked to appear before the Health and Welfare Committee and after some discussion was allowed to retain his licence on condition that he installed a new plant which he assured the Committee would prevent any further deficiencies. The new plant has now been installed and the result of further samples is awaited with interest.

The average quality of the milk supply based on the samples submitted during the year remained satisfactory showing the following results:-

Butter Fat	3.83%	(Standard 3%)
Solids not Fat	8.65%	(Standard 8.5%)
Total Solids	12.48%	(Standard 11.5%)
Water	87.52%	(Standard 88.5%)

Unsound Food. 1 ton 8 cwts. 13 qrs. 7 lbs. 15½ ozs. of assorted foodstuffs were seized during the year.

Meat Inspection. Details of the animals slaughtered and the condemnations made are shown for the individual slaughterhouses in the County.

Year 1954	Class of Animals	Slaughtered	Wholly condemned	Partially condemned	Weight (in lbs.) of condemned meat and offals
Aberfeldy	Cattle	475	-		176
	Sheep	2577	21		866
	Pigs	223	1		172
	Calves	34	-		-
Blairgowrie	Cattle	1748	21	2	11658
	Sheep	7109	115	3	4592
	Pigs	2356	34	1	2352
	Calves	572	5	-	60
Crieff	Cattle	1820	19	1	10983
	Sheep	4551	25	1	1127
	Pigs	600	3	1	190
	Calves	358	3	1	199
Dunblane	Cattle	419	10	-	6256
	Sheep	2128	13	4	871
	Pigs	306	3	2	274
	Calves	16	2	1	161
Milnathort	Pigs	5005	2	188	1625

The slaughterhouses reverted to Local Authority control on 1/7/54 and the arrangements thereafter varied. At Aberfeldy the slaughterhouse was closed until 1/10/54 when it was re-opened by a local butcher. At Blairgowrie, the slaughterhouse was leased by a private firm, slaughtering largely for export as well as for local needs. Several much needed improvements were made immediately, including rearrangements to provide slaughtering halls with overhead runway to a ventilated cooling hall, and introduction of hot water to the slaughtering halls. At Crieff, the slaughterhouse has been taken over by local butchers jointly. At Dunblane, the Town Council operates the slaughterhouse direct.

One application for the reopening of a private slaughterhouse was refused by the Secretary of State.

It is interesting to note that there has been a very considerable improvement in quality since the Ministry of Food control ended, and apart from a few casualty animals, whose number has been greatly reduced, the quality now is first class.

2 **Milk and Dairies.** 32 new applications were registered during the year, and 19 registrations lapsed for various reasons. The total number of dairy registrations in the Combined County at 31st December, 1954 was 364 (an increase of 13) comprising 274 in Perth County, 60 in Kinross County and 30 in the various burghs. Of these 228 were registered as producers only, 75 as producers/retailers and 65 as retailers only. There were no wholesale dealers only.

The average number of cows per dairy herd continues to show an upward trend, being 34.7 at 31/12/54, compared to 31.9 and 29.6 at the end of the years 1953 and 1952 respectively.

Of the 303 producers at 31/12/54, 243 held designated licences, an increase of 15 over the previous year: Certified 27, Tuberculin Tested 216. There was one pasteurising plant.

Licences (Producers and Pasteuriser)

Designation	New licences granted during year	No. Suspended	No. Revoked	No. discontinued for other reasons	No. in force at end of year
Certified	2	-	-	-	26
Tuberculin Tested	27	-	-	13	213
Standard	-	-	-	2	-
Pasteurised	-	-	-	-	1
Sterilised	-	-	-	-	-

Bacteriological Examination of Samples of Producers Milk

Designation	No. Taken	No. Failing	No. of Producers	
			with 3 consecutive failures	With 4 or more consecutive failures
Certified	141	19	-	-
Tuberculin Tested	1050	81	3	-
Standard	3	-	-	-

Biological Testing for Tuberculosis

Type of Milk	No. of Samples examined	No. of Positive Results	No. of Producers involved in positive results
Non-designated	8	-	-
Tuberculin Tested	27	-	-
Certified	6	-	-

Pasteurising Plants

Designation	No. of plants	No. of samples	No. of Plants where phosphatase test was -			No. of plants milk from which showed presence of B. Coli	
			Consistently up to standard	Not up to standard			
				on one occasion	on two or more occasions	on one occasion	On two or more occasions
T.T. Pasteurised	1	28	-	-	1 (2 occasions)	-	-

Ordinary Producers

Number of Farms	Number of samples	No. of Farms consistently up to standard	Number of farms where samples failed	
			on one occasion	on two or more occasions
22	48	15	5	2

At the end of 1953 there were still two "standard" dairy herds in the area, but this designation ceased as from 1/10/54.

In general dairymen have been found to comply with the prescribed conditions.

Under the Attestation Scheme, the following portions of the Joint County were declared Free Testing Areas as from 1/3/53: the County of Kinross, the whole of the Western District of Perthshire including the three burghs, and the parishes of Blackford, Glendevon and Muckhart in the Central District. For two years from the above date, free tuberculin testing facilities are available to farmers with a view to attestation. On 1/3/55 the area will become Eradication areas, and the remaining non-T.T. herds will be tested compulsorily. When this has been completed the areas will be fully attested. It is understood that the response to free testing has been excellent and that only one herd remained outstanding at the end of the year 1954.

Since the end of the war there has been steady improvement in the milk produced in the County. At the end of 1945 there were only 81 T.T. dairy herds. Five years later the number had risen to 182 and at the end of 1954 the number was 243. This improvement has been due to a combination of factors. The price policy of the Milk Marketing Board has made it financially attractive to farmers to upgrade to T.T. Upgrading is a major operation, because not only has tuberculosis to be eradicated from the herd, but the premises and equipment must be brought up to the standard of the Dairy Byelaws in every respect, and without the extra premiums paid for T.T. milk upgrading would have been a very slow business. The persuasive efforts of the District Sanitary Inspectors and the two Milk Officers appointed in 1946 have also played a prominent part, but undoubtedly the knowledge that compulsory attestation was on the way has provided strong support. At 31/12/54 there were only 60 "ordinary" producers left in the area. The majority of these were already attested but could not qualify for a T.T. licence because the premises did not comply with the Dairy Byelaws. The figures for non-dairy herds are equally advanced so that the rest of the County must be regarded as ripe for attestation, which it is hoped will not be delayed much longer.

Already, however, apart from a few remote areas ample supplies of T.T. or pasteurised milk are available throughout the County, and the Tuberculosis figures given earlier in this Report provide ample proof of the benefit to the community.

3. Ice Cream. During 1954, four additional registrations were approved under the Ice Cream (Scotland) Regulations, 1948, 3 being for storage and sale and 1 for a vehicle for sale only.

Two registrations for manufacture, storage and sale were cancelled during the year and at 31/12/54 the total number of registrations in force was 136, being 38 for manufacture, storage and sale, 77 for storage and sale, 12 for sale only and 9 vehicles (4 for storage and sale, and 5 for sale only).

14 test samples were taken for chemical analysis. Of these 1 was found to be below the prescribed standard of 5% butter fat. This was taken at the request of the dealer, who was just starting in business. 6 official samples were taken, 1 of which was reported as non-genuine and the vendor concerned, who had previously appeared before the Court on similar charges, was fined £20.

27 test samples were taking for bacteriological examination, and of these 14 were found to be below the suggested standard.

4. Clean Food. No new measures were taken during the year to ensure the hygienic handling of foodstuffs by food traders etc., but attention was directed to this matter at routine inspections for other purposes.

5. Food Poisoning. No cases of food poisoning came to notice during the year.

6. Cattle Poisoning. On 3/1/54, a number of cattle at Whiteloch Farm, Blairgowrie, were poisoned under circumstances which concerned the County Council from the Rivers Pollution and Meat Inspection aspects.

Whiteloch Farm is situated beside Fingask Loch, which is some 46 acres in extent and fairly deep, and from which water drains to the Lunan Burn, extensively used for cattle watering. On the morning of 3/1/54, a group of store cattle housed in a reed were found to be acutely ill. The previous afternoon the cattle had been out for a period in a field which was open to the loch. By midday one animal was dead and two had been removed for slaughter.

When visited the loch was found to be brilliant green in colour with large quantities of dark green sludge on the shore. Nothing was found in the field where the cattle had been, but in a neighbouring field was found a bag still containing a small quantity of what appeared to be a copper sulphate preparation used for spraying potatoes. It seemed most unlikely that the colour in the loch was due to copper sulphate, however, since many tons would have been required to make any appreciable colour change in a loch of this size. In the event, analysis of the loch water showed no sign of copper sulphate, the green colour being due to the presence of algae, which had been washed ashore by the high wind to form the sludge. Why the algae could have been present in such quantity at the very low temperature prevailing is still unexplained.

Examination of the slaughtered animals showed that they had suffered from an acute gastro intestinal irritant poisoning, the most probable cause of which would be either arsenic or copper sulphate. Analysis of organs showed this to be copper sulphate. Altogether nine animals were involved. Of these two had died and the others were slaughtered, and the question was whether the meat was safe to use. In an acute poisoning such as this, the viscera are primarily involved. Analysis of portions of the meat showed only traces of copper, well below the amount permissible for constant use in a water supply. The carcases were therefore passed as fit for human consumption, but all the offals were condemned.

The cattle must have had access to solid copper sulphate, but in spite of extensive search, none was found either in the field and shore or in the farm steading.

7. Nutrition. No change was apparent during the year under review.

PERTH COUNTY

REPORT to Perth County Council on non-transferred Functions

Mr. A.L. Riddell, County Sanitary Inspector

1. Housing.

General. The total number of houses erected by Perth County Council up to the end of 1953 was 2,106. During the year 1954, a further 179 houses were completed and occupied. At the end of the year, 152 houses were under construction.

Building Byelaws. 430 applications were dealt with under the Byelaws. Of these 351 were in respect of additions, alterations etc. to individual existing houses and erection of lavatories, workplaces, camps etc., and 79 applications were in respect of 319 new houses. Of the 319 new houses, 231 were to be built by the County Council (14 2-apartment, 160 3-apartment and 57 4-apartment); 74 were houses to be built by private individuals (3 2-apartment, 24 3-apartment, 36 4-apartment, 8 5-apartment, 2 7-apartment and 1 8-apartment) and 14 were houses to be built under the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1952 - Section 3 (8 3-apartment, 4 4-apartment and 2 5-apartment).

Housing (Rural Workers) (Scotland) Acts. No Certificates B were issued under this heading and one house remains to be completed.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1952 - Section 3. 12 Certificates A were issued in respect of 16 houses and 9 Certificates B were issued in respect of 13 houses.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950-1954. 203 applications for grant in respect of the improvement of properties were received and 188 of these were approved by the Committee.

Control of Civil Building. The total number of applications dealt with during the year was 65. Building Licensing ceased on 10th November, 1954.

Allocation of Houses. Under the scheme for allocating County Council houses, points are awarded in respect of the sanitary state of the present house occupied by the applicants. This pointing is done by Sanitary staff, and during the year 1097 visits were made for this purpose.

Housing of Seasonal Workers. During the 1954 season, berrypicking was carried out under very adverse weather conditions and it was found that, due to the pickers not being fully employed during the day, the accommodation at several of the farms was not too clean, and warnings were given to the farmers concerned.

On the day of the annual visit of the Sub-Committee, weather conditions were at their worst. At one large site, run by several proprietors, conditions were found to be very bad and subsequently the proprietors were informed that unless a detailed list of improvements was carried out, they would not be allowed to use the camp next year. At another farm where conditions were found to be unsatisfactory, improvements were called for. The County Council also subsequently agreed that assistance should be given during the berry season to the District Sanitary Inspector to ensure that proper supervision could be carried out.

Tents, Vans and Sheds. 200 inspections were made under this heading, mostly to tinkers encampments, which again showed an increase in number during the year. A number of Estate Owners, and Factors, however, have been able to help considerably by preventing the camping of these itinerants on rights of way as in woods. As noted in previous Reports, the ordinary tinker seldom gives rise to trouble, except when congregated in large numbers; much more difficulty is experienced with the hawker or dealer class.

2. Water Supplies.

Sampling. 259 samples of water were taken during the year, during routine investigations, or following complaints or in connection with applications for grant under the Agricultural Water Supplies Scheme. 81 of that total were taken of public water supplies.

General. Once again it is disappointing to report little progress with the Loch Turret Regional Supply. The Councils concerned, however, have accepted the allocation of running costs and agreed to proceed with the promotion of the necessary Order. On the Benachally Regional Scheme agreement was reached with Dundee Corporation to supply up to 385,000 gallons per day ahead of the full development of the Benachally Scheme for the Coupar Angus District and other areas and this supply was offered to Coupar Angus Burgh by the County Council.

During the year £55,621 was spent on distribution mains in the County as compared with an estimate of £70,723. The Kirkton of Lethendy Scheme was begun and mains laid towards Caputh Village. The Fairygreen augmentation of the Balbeggie Supply was partially completed and mains laid to Collace Village and Kirkton. Mains were also laid from Wolfhill Crossroads down to Wolfhill Farm and the Estate main crossing Whitefield Airfield was taken over by the County Council to feed this area. In the Aberuthven area mains were laid to serve Belhie and Loanhead Farms. The Bridge of Earn mains were extended to Pitkeathly Wells. The Glenfarg mains were extended to Pithillock Farm. Mains were laid in the Kincardine area to serve Arnieve and Offers Farms. In the Glencarse area mains were laid to Nethermains Farm. The Callander Burgh mains were extended out to feed farm on Cambusmore Estate. Last year agreement was reached with Strathord Estates and a scheme was approved to water practically all the remaining farms on that Estate which were not already fed off public supplies. The first two sections of these mains were laid during 1954 from Luncarty to Newmiln and from Bankfoot to Letham Crossroads.

At Comrie the operations of the Hydro Electric Board constructing the dam on the Lednock at Spout Rollo were found liable to foul the intake of the water supply and arrangements were made with the Board whereby for a substantial contribution by them towards its cost a new intake was formed on the Lurg Burn and a new intake pipe was laid through the gorge there to the village supply tanks. Another Hydro Electric Board development at St. Fillans threatened to interfere with the purity of the village water supply there. On representations being made, the Board agreed to meet the cost of extending the village supply about a mile further up the hillside so as to place the intake above the scene of their operations

In Meigle the mains were extended along the Dundee road to serve new house building there and at Scone the Aerodrome main was run out to Gretna Green Croft. The Ardler mains were extended up to Springbank to serve Arthurstone House and also West Ardler Farm (Angus) The Killin supply was improved by the completion of a ring main at Mansfield which would also serve housing development there. The main at Craigend was extended to Plashburn.

Mains were extended for housing schemes in Scone, Errol, Guildtown Comrie, Balbeggie and Stanley.

The Methven pressure filters were completely overhauled. Ahead of road reconstruction the mains and service pipes were replaced in Drummond Street, Muthill; Main Street, Braco; Dundas Street, Comrie; and the Main Street of Thornhill. Improvements were made to the mains at Scroggiehill, Almondbank. The War Department Depot built at Spoutwells, Scone, required more water than the existing mains could deliver and a duplicate and independent supply to this Depot was laid out from Perth, linked in for emergency use to the Scone system. An augmentation scheme comprising a surface service tank and emergency pump was installed at Gartmore to maintain the village supply during shortage to Gartmore House School.

There was still no further progress on the Meigle to Coupar Angus main nor on the proposed main from Tomaknock to Madderty. The supply to Fearnan Village was still deferred.

During the year approval in principle was also given to mainlaying schemes to serve Ardgilzean and Mavisbank in the Guildtown area and also in the Meikleour area from Meikleour to Easter Banchory. Also approved were branch mains to Mains of Gourdie and Nether Aird, the link-up main to Meikleour from Lethendy, the branch to Tower of Lethendy and mains within Caputh Village and on to Boatlands all these being in the Lethendy area. For all these schemes tenders were obtained but they along with the supply to Newton of Balhary, Lietfie and Bardmony, etc. in the New Alyth area were for various reasons still held up by the end of the year.

Among the items of interest during the year was alarm in the Comrie area caused by a strong phenolic taste and smell, proved later to be due to creosoted wooden poles having been dragged through the river about two miles above the intake.

During the year the first notices were served under the Water (Scotland) Act, 1946 and the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 requiring the provision within three months of a water supply to houses at West Huntingtower.

During the year 385 houses were connected to the mains for the first time and the undernoted additional fittings were supplied:- 651 sinks, 579 washhand basins, 521 water closets, 411 baths, 334 cisterns, 70 heating systems, 211 miscellaneous taps, 89 field troughs and 221 drinking bowls - a total of 3087 completed. The average number of fittings coupled up per working day was 11.

The year was generally wet and no difficulty arose in supplying all the area from lack of water. The public supplies were efficiently maintained.

3. Drainage.

Sampling. During the year eight samples of sewage effluent were taken.

General. The maintenance and operation of the Sewage Treatment Works throughout the County has been kept up to standard. Towards the end of the year this was made much more efficient by the establishment of a small workshop at the Scone Sewage Treatment Works and the purchase of a light truck for the transport of the maintenance fitter to the various Works. It is now possible to effect repairs of the mechanical equipment at our own workshop and the maintenance fitter can now readily visit all works and carry out necessary maintenance and repairs. The Department of Health made a grant towards the establishment of the workshop and the purchase of the light truck.

There were no major repairs carried out during the year to any of the existing works. The Vacuum Tank Waggon continues to remove the sludge from the works and greater quantities than previously are being sprayed on pasture land as farmers are realising the improvement to growth of pasture which follows. When pastures are not available or access to fields is impossible due to weather conditions, the sludge is composted with straw and the product finds a ready market when matured.

Only one new Sewage Works was brought into operation during the year to serve the village of Scone the existing works having been overloaded and causing a nuisance for many years. Work was also commenced on the Bridge of Earn and Glencarse Drainage Systems and several extensions were made to serve Council Housing Schemes. In many cases the extensions form part of a future drainage scheme and the sewage is treated by means of a temporary Septic Tank which will be superseded by the permanent Sewage Treatment Works when constructed.

Scone. This village had had a drainage system for many years but owing to the large housing developments the old Sewage Treatment Works were seriously overloaded. The old Works were situated in Quarry Mill Den about a quarter of a mile from the Perth-Blairgowrie Road. The new works were constructed between the Perth-Blairgowrie Road and the River Tay adjoining the Annaty Burn. Treatment consists of precipitation in Sedimentation Tanks, filtration in two filters and further precipitation in Humas Tanks. Provision is also made for desludging the tanks, the sludge being removed by means of the Vacuum Tank Waggon. Adequate space has been retained for enlarging the works should this be required.

4. Scavenging. The uplifting of household refuse continued in a satisfactory manner during the year. Various adjustments made in the Regional Schemes allowed more time for collection of refuse and thus avoided the necessity for increasing staff. Two new Karrier vehicles of 12 cubic yards capacity were purchased one for Perth District and one for Eastern District, to replace two 10 cubic yards capacity vehicles which were becoming unserviceable.

560 inspections in connection with scavenging districts were made during the year.

Owing to the continued low price obtainable for waste paper, the amount baled for sale was again small - 7 tons 14 cwts. valued at £43:13:6.

5. Street Lighting. A new district was formed during the year at Grandtully/Strathtay. There are now 37 Special Lighting Districts in the County with a total number of 1133 lighting points.

6. Burial Grounds. The burial grounds throughout the County have been adequately maintained.

During the year new extensions were brought into use at Auchtergaven Moneydie and Clunie. A new cemetery was constructed and put into use at Inchture. At Madderty an extension of the existing churchyard was approved. At Abernethy search for a new cemetery was continued The churchyards at Arngask and Blackford were closed.

7 Factories Act, 1937. At the end of 1954 there were in the County 192 mechanical and 66 non-mechanical factories. In addition 5 building sites and 7 engineering sites were dealt with under Section 7. During the year, 152 inspections were made, and conditions generally were found to be satisfactory.

No intimations were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. Minor defects were found on 11 occasions, relating to want of cleanliness 4, unreasonable temperature 3, and unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences 4. All defects were remedied without recourse to formal notices.

8. Offensive Trades. There are no Offensive Trades operated in the Landward part of the County.

9. Rats and Mice Destruction. During the year the Rat Destruction staff was reduced by one trapper, the staff now consisting of one foreman and one trapper operating from Braco and one foreman and one trapper based on Perth. This reduction in staff was mainly due to the increased use of "Warfarin" by farmers, who now largely prefer to carry out rat destruction work themselves. The continued wet weather during the year, however, also caused a reduction in the work done as it interfered with trapping and made poisoning difficult, since dampness has a bad effect on baits laid in the open, where most baits are laid.

726 premises were surveyed, of which 261 were actually treated by the squads (Local Authority premises, mainly refuse coups 111, dwelling houses 40, business or industrial premises 25, and agricultural properties 85). Of the remaining 465 premises, no "heavy" infestations were found, one only was classed as "medium" and 181 were "lightly" infested. In these cases, owners stated that they were themselves carrying out rat destruction work, mostly with "Warfarin" and subsequent reinspections confirmed this. In addition three hospitals were regularly visited and treated when necessary at the request of the appropriate Board.

During the above visits, it is estimated that 14,687 rats and 49 mice were destroyed, a total of 14,736, compared to 24,869 in 1953. No estimates are available of rodents destroyed by occupiers themselves.

Myxomatosis is now widespread amongst rabbits throughout the County, and as a result rabbit trapping has been considerably reduced. Fairly large numbers of rats were killed during the trapping season, so that the number killed in this way during the present year is likely to be much smaller than usual.

Mole killing was carried out by the squads on 15 occasions (playing fields 4, Churchyards 2, farms 9) and rabbit destruction at 1 Churchyard.

In addition to the above work, 61 inspections were carried out by Sanitary staff in connection with complaints regarding rat and mice infestations.

10. Disinfestation (apart from Rats and Mice). During the year disinfestation treatment was carried out on 16 occasions comprising 13 dwelling houses (fleas 7, woodworm 1, wasps 2 ants 2, beetles 1), 2 shops (woodworm 1, flies 1), and 1 institution (fleas). The number of infestations dealt with this year is much lower than usual possibly due to the cold wet summer. In most of the cases of flea infestations, these were left by a previous tenant and only brought to notice when a new tenant took up residence. Both cases of wasp infestation occurred in new houses, and were due to Giant Tailed wasps (sirax gigas) which apparently had been present in egg form in the timber when the house was constructed. One house was treated for heavy bat infestation in the attics. The fly infestation in a butcher's premises was found to be due to a large piece of decomposing meat which had been buried in the back yard.

11. Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs. 14 samples were taken of which 10 conformed to guarantee 3 showed a deficiency in one or more component and one showed an excess.

12. Nuisances. Inspections were made in connection with 815 alleged nuisances. These included drainage 396, water 188, deposit of refuse 92, dirty houses 33, burial grounds 6 and miscellaneous 100. The 33 visits were in respect of 4 dirty houses as these took some time to clear up and further inspections were necessary to ensure that improvement was maintained. The burial ground visits were mainly concerned with rabbit or mole infestation but in one case investigations were carried out with a view to closure.

One case which gave rise to considerable difficulty arose at Muir of Alyth where drainage from a piggery caused a nuisance. A Statutory Notice was served on the proprietor, who commenced work to remedy the nuisance, but was stopped by an Interim Interdict obtained by a neighbouring proprietor. This case was still pending at the end of the year.

13. Complaints. 243 complaints were received during the year compared to 168 in 1953 and were generally dealt with satisfactorily without recourse to formal intimations.

14. General. During the year 5685 specific inspections were made by Sanitary staff as compared with 5589 in 1953. These included all branches of the work, but many minor matters are dealt with incidentally and do not find their way into the recorded figures.

KINROSS COUNTY

REPORT to Kinross County Council on Non-Transferred Functions in the County of Kinross

Mr. I.R.M. Guthrie - Sanitary Inspector

1. Water Supply. The Milnathort supply is obtained from a spring source in the Ochil Hills and treated in a Bell Mechanical Filtration Plant prior to storage in a closed service reservoir of 78,000 gallons capacity, roughly equal to one day's supply. With the constantly increasing demand the position continued to give cause for concern, and augmentation from a local well was considered. After a series of samples had shown that this supply could not be used without chlorination, which, owing to the situation of the well, involved technical difficulties, this proposal was deferred. Routine samples of the existing supply showed it to be satisfactory in quality.

The Kinnesswood supply is obtained from a spring area on Bishop's Hill led to a covered service reservoir of 8,000 gallon capacity. The original lead connecting pipe has now been replaced in asbestos cement. The supply as been adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality.

Supplies to other communities in the County are obtained either from private sources or from mains belonging to other Authorities.

Eighteen samples from private sources were taken during the year.

2. Drainage. The systems at the two Special Districts, Milnathort and Kinnesswood, remain as previously reported, but at Kinnesswood because of ponding on the sludge beds, it was necessary to instal a sump and pump to return the drainage from below the sludge beds to the pre-screening chambers at the plant inlet.

3. Cleansing. This remains as previously reported. The coup at Arlary is nearly full, and an alternative site is now being sought.

4. Housing. The number of houses erected by the Council as at 31/12/53 was 126. During the year a further 16 houses were completed (four 4-apartment and four 2-apartment at Milnathort, two 4-apartment and two 3-apartment at Crook of Devon and four 4-apartment at Fruix). At 31/12/54 a further 18 houses were under construction.

During the year 10 applications for improvement grants under the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 were approved. One application for grant under the 1952 Act for an agricultural worker's house was approved. Forty-five applications under the Building Byelaws were approved.

5. Offensive Trades. There are none. The slaughterhouse at the Bacon Factory at Milnathort is well run.

6 Burial Grounds These have been well looked after.

7 Factories. Visits were paid to the various factories in the County and these were found in general to be well maintained. In one case action was taken to ensure adequate sanitary accommodation for female staff.

8. General The usual number of complaints were dealt with during the year, but no statutory notices were required to secure remedy.

SMALL BURGHS

REPORTS to Town Councils on Non-Transferred Functions

ABERFELDY

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. G.A. Sangster

1. Water Supply. This is satisfactory in quality and ample in quantity. Repairs to the intake are scheduled. It would be an advantage if a number of stop valves could be inserted at convenient points on the mains to enable much smaller areas than at present to be isolated when necessary

2. Drainage. The works continue to operate satisfactorily but with the constantly increasing load improvements and additions may soon have to be considered.

3. Cleansing. The system is working satisfactorily, but a new coup will be required before long.

4. Housing. 16 houses (ten 3-apartment traditional, two 4-apartment traditional and four 4-apartment Weir) were completed during the year, making a total of 139 houses erected by the Council up to 31/12/54 when a further 18 houses were under construction and five old houses were under reconstruction.

5. Factories. There are 18 mechanical and 4 non-mechanical factories in the Burgh. 12 visits were paid to these during the year.

6. Offensive Trades. There are none. The slaughterhouse was given up by the Ministry of Food as from 1/7/54 and was taken over by one of the local butchers as from 1/10/54.

7. Burial Ground. This has been well looked after. The question of extension is still under consideration.

8. General. The school is well kept. During the year the usual small number of minor complaints were received by the Sanitary Inspector and action taken where indicated.

ABERNETHY

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. A.L. Riddell

1. Water Supply. The water supply was satisfactory in quality and sufficient in quantity and the filters continue to operate satisfactorily.

2. Drainage. The drainage system generally has worked efficiently.

3. Scavenging. The scavenging arrangements are satisfactory.

4. Housing. No new houses were erected during the year the total number erected by the Town Council being 66. One Improvement Grant was approved.

5. Factories. There are now 8 factories within the Burgh and 10 inspections were made during the year.

6. Burial Ground. This was maintained in a satisfactory condition, but it has not yet been found possible to obtain a suitable site for a new burial ground.

7. General. 8 complaints were received during the year, but these were all of a minor character. Altogether 58 inspections were made during the year for general purposes.

Considerable flooding was experienced in the Hall Park and Cree's Inn areas, owing to the exceptionally heavy rainfall in the latter part of the year, but steps have now been taken to prevent a recurrence.

ALYTH

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. J. Chalmers

1. Water Supply. This continues to be ample in quantity and satisfactory in quality.

2. Drainage. The drainage arrangements remain as previously reported.

3. Cleansing. This has been carried out satisfactorily.

4. Housing. 4 houses were completed during the year. At 31/12/54, the total number of houses provided by the Council was 195, with no houses in course of erection.

5. General. The factories were regularly visited and found satisfactory. Extensions at the School were in progress during the year. The burial ground was well kept.

AUCHTERARDER

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. A. Brebner

1. Water Supply. The water supply is of good quality. In former years temporary shortage has been experienced, but this year the supply was found to be adequate, partly due to repair of an old standing fracture in the main on the Crook of Moss supply.

2. Drainage. The drainage and sewage system were satisfactory. Persistent ponding was experienced in the two filter beds, but this was remedied by the turnover and washing of the filtering media under pressure.

3. Cleansing. The scavenging arrangements were satisfactory, household refuse now being collected twice weekly. Waste paper is collected for salvage once a week.

4. Housing. No new houses were completed during the year and at 31/12/54 247 houses had been completed by the Council. At the end of the year 19 new houses were under construction. Grants were approved for the reconstruction of 2 houses.

5. Factories. There are 19 factories in the Burgh and these were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

6. General. The school is well kept. Conditions at the burial ground are satisfactory.

BLAIRGOWRIE

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. W.A. Coutts

1. Water Supply. The water supply continues to be satisfactory.

2. Drainage. No change occurred in the drainage arrangements during the year. No further progress has been made with the scheme for improvements at the Blairgowrie works which are becoming more necessary each year.

3. Cleansing. This is efficiently carried out by Burgh staff. Arrangements are in hand for an extension of the existing coup at Welton Road, which is well managed, and which has been successfully kept clear of rats by the use of Warfarin.

4. Housing. A further 40 houses were completed during the year, the total number of houses completed by the Council at 31/12/54 being 176, and a further 14 were under construction at the end of the year. 12 applications for improvement grant were considered, of which 10 were approved.

5. Slaughterhouse. Early in the year a hot water system was installed, led to each of the slaughtering booths. When the Ministry of Food relinquished control at the end of June, the slaughterhouse was leased to a private firm which immediately carried out improvements, including the installation of a runway connecting the individual booths, one of which was converted into a ventilated cooling hall.

6. Miscellaneous. The three schools are kept in satisfactory condition. The old disused lodging house has now been demolished. The number of factories remains as before. Each was visited twice during the year. The burial grounds have been well maintained.

CALLANDER

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. D.M. Thomson

1. Water Supply. The water supply is ample in quantity and satisfactory in quality and the County Water Authority now obtain bulk supplies for the Cambusmore area.

2. Drainage. There is no change in the drainage and sewage disposal systems.

3. Cleansing. The scavenging arrangements are satisfactory. The coup has been extended and should serve the Burgh for many years.

4. Housing. 24 houses were completed during the year and at 31/12/54, 175 houses had been erected by the Council.

5. Factories. The factories and workshops were regularly inspected and found satisfactory.

6. General. A number of minor complaints were received and dealt with. The burial grounds are kept in good condition. The schools are well kept.

COUPAR ANGUS

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. G.D. Oliphant

1. Water Supply. The water supply was maintained during the year, but negotiations towards obtaining a new supply are continuing.

2. Drainage. The drainage system was satisfactory.

3. Cleansing. The scavenging arrangements were satisfactory, but it has not yet been found possible to secure another coup.

4. Housing. No further houses were completed during the year, the total erected remaining at 184.

5. Factories. There were 19 factories in the Burgh and 10 visits of inspection were made during the year.

6. General. Only two complaints required recourse to written intimation and one was remedied, but the other is proving more difficult, although it is expected that this will be cleared up early in 1955. One house is let in lodgings and is kept in good order. The cemetery was maintained in a satisfactory condition.

CRIEFF

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. C. Rankin

1. Water Supply. The water supply is satisfactory in quality and ample in quantity.

2. Drainage. The drainage and sewage works continue to function satisfactorily.

3. Cleansing. The cleansing arrangements are satisfactory.

4. Housing. No houses were completed during the year, the total number erected by the Town Council being 431.

5. Offensive Trades. The slaughterhouse which is now rented by local butchers, is kept in good condition.

6. Schools. The schools in the Burgh are in a satisfactory condition.

7. Burial Grounds. The three burial grounds were well kept and further extension work was carried out at the one now in use.

8. Factories. There are 45 factories in the Burgh and conditions were satisfactory.

DOUNE

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. A.J. Low

1. Water Supply. The water supply gave very little trouble during the year. The careful use of Alumino-Ferric has entirely removed any coloration.

2. Drainage. This has functioned efficiently. The sludge drying beds have been emptied, though it is becoming a little difficult to get farmers to take the dried sludge. The storm overflow in Castle Road discharging to the Ardoch Burn has been completed.

3. Cleansing. Scavenging and collection of refuse has been efficiently carried out.

4. Housing. No further houses were built by the Council during the year, the total number constructed remaining at 82. An old tenement block in Main Street belonging to the Council is to be reconstructed to provide houses suitable for old people.

5. Factories. There are 9 factories in the Burgh and these are in satisfactory condition.

6. General. The school is well kept. The burial ground in the Burgh is now seldom used. The few complaints received during the year were mostly of choked drains which were immediately put in order.

DUNBLANE

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. B.J. McKay

1. Water supply. The water supply is satisfactory in quality and ample in quantity. Owing to the excessive rainfall the reservoir was practically on constant overflow and on several occasions the scour pipe was opened to relieve the heavy overflow. 13 million gallons of water were supplied to Clackmannan County Council. The average daily consumpt still remains at the high figure of 90 gallons.

2. Drainage. The drainage arrangements worked fairly well, but the exceptional rainfall, which caused heavy flooding, caused difficulties. During the year, major repairs to the sewage works were carried out.

3. Cleansing. The scavenging and refuse disposal arrangements are satisfactory. Waste paper is collected regularly.

4. Housing. 12 Weir houses were completed during the year, bringing the total completed by the Council at 31/12/54 to 207. A further 16 Weir houses are under construction. One application for Improvement Grant was approved.

5. Offensive Trades. There are none. The slaughterhouse is now run by the Council and conditions are satisfactory.

6. Factories. The 17 factories in the Burgh are visited regularly.

7. General. 14 minor nuisances were dealt with during the year. The two schools are well kept. The burial grounds are in satisfactory condition. The extension of the Burgh boundary, confirmed in May, 1954, increased the area of the Burgh from 418 acres to 626 acres, and increased the estimated population to 3,017.

KINROSS

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. I.R.M Guthrie

1. Water Supply. The main source is a spring area in the Cleish Hills, where some 16 springs are piped into open reservoirs with a total capacity of 200,000 gallons, approximately 1½ days supply. The secondary source is a well at Turfhills, pumped electrically when required to increase quantity and maintain pressure. Both sources were satisfactory.

2. Drainage. The two sewage plants are as previously reported, both discharging to Loch Leven. The south plant is overloaded but is causing no nuisance.

3. Cleansing. The arrangements are satisfactory. The refuse freighter was replaced during the year.

4. Housing. The total number of houses erected by the Council as at 31/12/53 was 176 (eight 2-apartment houses for Old Folks, 52 three-apartment, 106 four-apartment and 10 five-apartment houses). During the year a further 14 four-apartment houses were completed, and 12 more were under construction at the end of the year.

5. General. The three burial grounds have been well maintained. The factories were found to be in satisfactory condition. At one factory the sanitary accommodation was improved following representation. The school has been well kept.

PITLOCHRY

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. G.A. Sangster

1. Water Supply. The water supply is satisfactory in quality and adequate in quantity.

2. Drainage. The works are satisfactory.

3. Cleansing. The system is satisfactory. The existing coup is almost filled up, and several sites have been examined, so far without result.

4. Housing. 24 houses were completed during the year, eight 4-apartment traditional and ten 4-apartment and six 3-apartment non-traditional (Weir). One large house was reconstructed to provide two houses. The total number of new houses now erected by the Council as at 31/12/54 was 154, with a further 10 under construction. 2 Improvement Grants were approved.

5. Factories. There are 17 mechanical and 15 non-mechanical factories. 14 inspections were carried out, and a few minor defects brought to the notice of the occupiers.

6. Burial Grounds. These are well kept. The proposed extension of the cemetery is still under consideration, but it is hoped to be able to extend the existing cemetery to the East.

7. General. The school is well kept. The usual minor complaints were received and dealt with during the course of the year.

APPENDIX I

VITAL STATISTICS

Details according to local areas

Year 1954	Population Census 1951	Estimated Population 30/6/54	Births*	Birth Rate	Deaths*	Death Rate
Perth County	87,606	86,344	1,356	15.7	1132	13.1
Landward	59,941	59,128	928	15.7	762	12.8
Aberfeldy	1,523	1,499	19	12.7	30	20.0
Abernethy	675	669	16	23.9	4	6.0
Alyth	2,072	2,056	20	9.7	22	10.7
Auchterarder	2,434	2,402	53	22.1	33	13.7
Blairgowrie	5,383	5,368	91	16.9	76	14.2
Callander	1,727	1,632	22	13.5	19	11.6
Coupar Angus	2,175	2,205	33	15.0	20	9.1
Crieff	5,473	5,429	79	14.5	74	13.6
Doune	834	875	16	18.3	13	14.8
Dunblane	2,985	2,825	34	12.1	34	12.1
Pitlochry	2,384	2,256	45	19.9	29	12.8
Kinross County	7,418	7,437	101	13.6	102	13.7
Landward	4,923	4,911	55	11.2	49	10.0
Kinross Burgh	2,495	2,526	46	18.2	35	13.8
Joint County	95,024	93,781	1,457	15.5	1234	13.2

* corrected for residence

DISTRICT NURSING SERVICE

Summary of Work done by District Nurses during the year 1954

District	Cases Nursed			Nursing visits		Ante-natal visits for Confinements		Child Welfare visits		Tuberculosis visits	School Inspections and visits	Miscellaneous visits	
	General		Maternity	General	Maternity	Home	Hosp.	Infants	1 - 5			Under 65	Over 65
	Under 65	Over 65											
Aberfeldy	58	50	4	1941	71	9	-	213	331	83	30	1	10
Aberfoyle	75	38	1	1853	14	-	115	211	205	33	100	-	10
Abernethy	38	45	7	1881	114	70	73	150	196	32	22	14	51
Almondbank	141	47	12	2200	168	100	77	245	270	33	38	-	2
Alyth	48	75	6	4063	57	56	118	642	645	112	247	23	154
Auchterarder	42	49	18	1505	363	164	213	500	386	78	64	2	26
Auchtergaven	264	78	9	2940	188	60	68	244	290	76	47	5	15
Balquhidder	163	49	3	2477	72	32	51	135	173	24	30	-	3
Birnam & Dunkeld	42	60	15	1148	258	106	46	359	371	122	85	8	48
Blackford	3	20	12	1560	292	44	57	270	208	30	12	-	10
Blairgowrie/ Rattray	98	114	17	3972	370	119	38	815	1069	108	122	2	24
Braco	114	54	3	2222	103	138	75	273	217	11	27	-	18
Callander	48	43	7	1615	153	52	94	312	292	97	49	-	22
Comrie	137	98	17	2939	265	191	72	270	200	23	80	-	13
Coupar Angus	39	45	5	2509	87	50	90	389	226	111	96	1	11
Crieff	349	213	30	6910	706	308	453	823	818	179	293	1	30
Dunbarney	17	19	8	706	105	54	100	384	330	93	103	-	-
Dunblane	49	81	11	1802	170	114	232	311	278	122	43	-	3
Dunning	25	35	11	1787	123	78	47	310	307	61	54	3	11
East Carse	64	55	13	2641	242	132	21	318	430	162	163	44	102
Errol	50	31	14	1274	242	131	29	257	284	127	40	-	11
Fortingall	105	17	1	1859	19	10	22	51	59	4	22	-	-
Fowlis Wester	65	38	4	1290	97	54	27	182	206	15	57	3	3
Glenfarg	27	24	5	1183	109	55	29	184	187	12	52	22	23
Glenlyon	186	19	-	1985	-	-	-	41	117	14	13	-	-
Kenmore	104	37	1	1241	19	17	43	153	117	49	32	-	-
Killin	17	27	8	756	139	71	84	238	250	-	48	-	-
Logierait	38	43	4	2146	69	21	12	193	160	8	36	-	19
Methven	195	47	2	2122	87	12	108	237	328	43	43	4	29
Muthill	110	56	6	3034	141	95	55	141	143	32	39	126	122
Pitlochry	92	50	7	2133	147	39	58	327	228	84	66	3	19
Rannoch & Foss	79	23	2	1446	43	11	4	171	183	3	56	1	4
Scone	83	63	16	1517	238	192	210	527	600	167	189	8	52
Stanley	118	53	17	2296	287	104	136	479	617	164	57	15	17
St. Martins	77	39	5	1206	153	55	57	416	465	108	63	20	25
Strathardle	93	29	6	2386	125	110	5	309	435	4	89	190	278
Thornhill	43	16	8	780	162	61	26	246	213	72	58	3	11
Vale of Teith	76	68	9	2686	130	77	141	616	792	91	153	16	230
West Carse	62	30	8	1393	104	84	23	215	242	16	29	3	5
West Atholl	103	31	25	1091	370	109	8	287	319	75	57	4	3
Fossoway	26	23	10	1760	164	88	57	198	226	4	62	2	3
Kinross	35	41	30	2345	584	179	165	764	724	202	75	-	62
Milnathort	39	38	12	2388	182	108	76	179	273	110	36	4	10
TOTALS	3637	2111	409	88988	7532	3560	3425	13586	14810	3004	3077	328	1489

APPENDIX III

TUBERCULIN TESTING AND B.C.G. VACCINATION

Session 1953-54

School	% Consent	Boys		Girls		Boys & Girls		No. vaccinated
		No. Tested	% positive	No. Tested	% positive	No. Tested	% positive	
Perth City								
Perth Academy	82	188	45	200	46	388	46	211
Perth High	88	234	33	241	36	475	35	311
St. John's	90	21	29	16	56	37	41	22
Totals	86	443	38	457	41	900	40	544
Perth District								
Errol	91	25	12	14	29	39	18	32
Invergowrie	96	10	-	12	42	22	23	16
Scone	70	13	31	19	53	32	44	17
Stanley	100	23	44	26	23	49	33	32
Methven	93	13	15	23	17	36	17	29
Dunbarney	74	18	22	11	27	29	24	20
Totals	86	102	23	105	31	207	27	146
Eastern District								
Blairgowrie	65	67	31	79	42	146	37	91
Alyth	93	21	38	25	64	46	52	22
Coupar Angus	68	10	50	6	67	16	56	10
Totals	70	98	35	110	48	208	42	123
Highland District								
Breadalbane	86	50	52	64	45	114	40	57
Dunkeld-Birnam	90	10	10	13	23	23	17	17
Pitlochry	77	23	43	19	37	42	41	25
Totals	84	83	40	96	41	179	43	99
Central District								
Crieff J.S.	96	30	47	21	33	51	41	30
Morrison's Acad.	92	103	44	95	40	198	42	110
Lawers Agri.	89	22	27	4	-	26	23	20
Comrie	93	6	67	6	33	12	50	6
Auchterarder	100	28	21	29	33	57	28	38
Totals	94	189	40	155	37	344	38	204
Western District								
Dunblane	100	23	26	11	36	34	29	24
McLaren High	66	48	37	58	38	106	37	59
Aberfoyle	95	8	50	9	22	17	35	11
Killin	100	-	-	2	100	2	100	-
Totals	74	79	34	80	38	159	37	94
Kinross	100	21	48	36	44	57	46	29
COUNTY TOTALS	82	572	36	582	39	1154	39	695
CITY & COUNTY TOTALS	84	1015	37	1039	40	2054	38	1239

APPENDIX IV

LIST OF STAFF

County Medical Officer	James Kelman, M.D. D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officers	James A. Sellar, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (resigned 15/1/54) Elizabeth T. MacDougall, M.B., Ch.B. (resigned 15/8/54) John E. Jack, M.B., Ch.B. (appointed 18/1/54) Elspeth B. Beveridge, L.R.C.P. & S., D.P.H., D.R.C.O.G. (appointed 16/8/54)
Senior Dental Officer	Michael R. Kirkland, L.D.S.
Assistant Dental Officers	Mrs. M.S. Black, L.D.S., Christian J. Brunton, L.D.S. Elizabeth J. Mann, L.D.S.
Superintendent Nursing Officer	Elspeth L. Brown, R.G.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.
Assistant Superintendent Nursing Officer	Jessie S. Waters, R.G.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.
Chief Administrative Assistant	William Brannan
Children's Officer	Frederick J. Earnshaw
Senior Physiotherapist	Agnes C. Hampton
County Sanitary Inspector	Alexander L. Riddell
District Sanitary Inspectors	
Eastern:	George D. Oliphant
Highland:	George A. Sangster
Perth/Central:	George V. Hadden (Senior)
Western:	Alexander J. Low
Kinross	Ian R.M. Guthrie

COUNTIES OF PERTH AND KINROSS

REPORTS

on the

HEALTH AND SANITARY
CONDITIONS OF THE COUNTIES

and

THE BURGHS OF

ABERNETHY, ABERFELDY, ALYTH, AUCHTERARDER, BLAIRGOWRIE AND RATTRAY, CALLANDER, COUPAR ANGUS, CRIEFF, DOUNE, DUNBLANE KINROSS AND PITLOCHRY

for the year

1955

by

JAMES KELMAN, M.D., D.P.H.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INTRODUCTION

1955 saw the twenty fifth anniversary of the Joint County Council of Perth and Kinross which was constituted under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1929. The years between were certainly not uneventful. The financial crisis of 1931, the Munich crisis of 1938, the outbreak of war in 1939, the war years and the post war controls and shortages - all these in turn frustrated progress. The new legislation taking effect in 1948 turned the County Council s social health services into new fields, but the wheel has turned full circle, and at the time of writing, we are back once again into a period of financial restrictions.

In spite of all this a great deal was done during these twenty-five years. The steady improvement in our environmental services and in our schools, the build up of our Maternity and Child Welfare Services, the improvement in our milk supply, the increased use of direct methods of prevention of infectious disease, together with the vast advances in curative medicine and the general increase in the standard of living - all these are paying handsome dividends. Much of this is comparatively recent, much of it is postwar and much of it has involved large capital expenditure, some of which at least might well have been carried out prewar at a third of the cost.

The maternal mortality rate has fallen from around 8 to less than 1 per thousand births. There has been a steady saving in infant lives, the Infant Mortality rate having fallen from an average of 58 to an average of 25 per thousand births. The expectation of life at birth is now around 70 years, slightly less for males and rather more for females. The senile death rate (the percentage of deaths at age 65 and upwards) has improved from 60% to 75%. Deaths from infectious disease excluding tuberculosis have been reduced to one tenth, and from respiratory tuberculosis to one third of what they were twenty five years ago.

Although infectious disease generally has been robbed of its terrors, and the success of the campaign against tuberculosis is at long last showing an increase in momentum this has thrown into relief some diseases in which success has been slow to come. Poliomyelitis has emerged into prominence in the postwar period, but in 1956 the first steps have been taken to tackle this by direct preventive methods. The most disquieting feature, however, has been the steady increase in the deaths from heart disease, the incidence of which has fallen disproportionately on males in the prime of life.

The services provided by the County Council under the National Health Service (Scotland) Act, 1947 were fully detailed in the Annual Report for 1952. The spearhead of these services is the District Nursing Service where the nurses carry out the combined duties of midwife, home nurse, and health visitor. The foundations of this service were well laid under the stimulus of the Federation of District Nursing Associations, which for more than twenty years had carried out the public health nursing duties within the County. Since 1948 our efforts have been directed towards improving the quality of the service particularly on the maternity and child welfare side. Recently, Working Parties have been examining the work and training of District Nurses and of Health Visitors, and it is most disappointing that in their Reports these working parties have been singularly unhelpful as regards nurses undertaking combined duties. This is a matter for concern, for there is no doubt that the only method of securing, in a scattered rural area such as this, a service which is efficient and at the same time economical, is by the employment of nurses on combined duties. Such a service is bound to suffer if nothing is done to ensure a supply of suitably trained nurses for these posts.

The School Health work is being carried on under difficulty. The work involved under the immunisation schemes - booster doses of diphtheria prophylactic, B.C.G. vaccination, and now vaccination against poliomyelitis, together with increased demands for non-routine examinations in connection with applications for transport, school attendance cases, and the detailed work of ascertainment of mental handicap - all these have increased to such an extent that the staffing position will have to be reviewed. The School Dental Service is also suffering from lack of numbers, and although the staff complement was increased by one during the year it was found impossible to fill the vacancy.

The scope of the work of the Sanitary Department has gradually widened during the years, but is likely to be increased very materially under the forthcoming Food Hygiene Regulations and it will be necessary to consider the staffing of the Sanitary Department very soon.

Perhaps on this anniversary occasion I may be pardoned for ending this Introduction on a more personal note. As County Medical Officer, I would like to record my deep appreciation of the constant encouragement I have received from the County Council as a whole and particularly from the County Convener, Sir George McGlashan, and the Chairmen of the Health and Welfare, Children, and Landward Health Committees, Provost Paterson, Dr. McDonagh and Rev. Mr. Brown, to all of whom I would express my most sincere thanks. The relationship of the Health and Welfare Department to other County Council Departments is now much closer than ever before, and to my colleagues in other Departments, and particularly to the County Clerk Mr. Bushnell, I would also express my grateful thanks. Finally, I would like to express my very real sense of obligation to the staff of my own Department, who have responded so loyally to all the demands I have had to make on them.

JAMES KELMAN,

M.D., D.P.H.

Perth.
4th August, 1956.

VITAL STATISTICS

1. General. The principal vital statistics for the year 1955 are shown below. The rates are after correction for transfers, and in the case of deaths, the rates after correction for age and sex are shown in brackets.

Table 1 - Principal Vital Statistics for 1955

	Perth County	Kinross County	Combined County
(a) Population	85,905	7,254	93,159
(b) Total Births	1,346	99	1,445
Birth Rates	15.7	13.6	15.5
(c) Total Deaths	1,200	104	1,304
Death Rates	14.0 (10.9)	14.3 (12.5)	14.0 (11.0)
(d) Infantile Mortality Rate	27	40	28

2 Population. The estimated population of the Combined County shows a further slight fall of 622 compared to 1954. The 1951 Census figure was 95,024.

3 Births. The birth rate per thousand of the population for the Combined County was 15.5, the same as last year. The figures for previous years were 1954 - 15.5; 1953 - 14.8; 1952 - 14.9; 1951 - 14.4; and 1950 - 15.6. The figure for Scotland was 18.0, the same as last year.

Table 2 - Birth Rates, 1911-1955

Years	Perth County	Kinross County	Combined County	Scotland
1911-15	19.7			25.4
1916-20	16.7			22.6
1921 25	16.2			22.6
1926-30	14.5			19.8
1931-35	14.3	15.7	14.4	18.2
1936-40	13.4	14.9	13.5	17.5
1941-45	14.5	16.5	14.6	18.2
1946-50	17.1	18.7	17.2	19.6
1951-55	15.1	14.6	15.0	17.8

The above table shows in five-yearly periods, the fluctuations in the birth rate during the last forty-five years. The County figures run parallel to the Scottish figure, but always at a much lower level.

Usually the birth rate for the Burghs is slightly higher than for the Landward Area, but this year the position is reversed - Burghs 15.1, Landward 15.7.

The figures for illegitimate births during the year were: Perth County 5.9%, Kinross County 8.0%, Combined County 6.0%, the latter rate being the same as last year. The figure for Scotland was 4.3%.

The still birth rate (per thousand births including still births) was 23, the same as last year. The figure for Scotland was 25, also the same as last year.

4 Deaths. The death rate for the Combined County was 11.0 per thousand of the population, compared to 10.4 for 1954, 9.5 for 1953 and 10.3 for 1952. The figure for Scotland was 12 0, the same as last year.

The table below shows the death rates for the last forty-five years, in five-yearly periods.

Table 3 - Death Rates, 1911-1955

Years	Perth County	Kinross County	Combined County	Scotland
1911-15	13.8			15.7
1916-20	14.0			14.9
1921-25	12.3			13.8
1926-30	12.0			13.5
1931-35	11.3	12.0	11.3	13.2
1936-40	11.5	12.3	11.5	13.5
1941-45	11.3	11.5	11.3	13.6
1946-50	10.8	11.7	10.9	12.7
1951-55	10.5	12.1	10.6	12.1

Of the 1304 deaths during 1955, 967 persons had attained the age of 65 and upwards, giving a senile death rate of 74.1%, compared with 73.6% for 1954, 71.4% for 1953 and 72.8% for 1952. 625 persons had attained the age of 75 years and upwards (47.1% of the total deaths) and 186 persons had attained the age of 85 years and upwards (14.3 of the total deaths).

Of the 967 persons who attained the age of 65 and upwards, 427 (44.2%) were males and 540 (55.8%) were females. The figures for the later ages were: 75 years and upwards, males 256 (41.0%), females 369 (59.0%); and 85 years and upwards, males 59 (31.7%) and females 127 (68.3%).

As will be seen from Table 4, the percentage of persons reaching the age of 65 years has increased steadily over the last twenty-five years which, of course, is directly reflected in the increasing need for services to old people.

Heart Disease. Heart disease caused 486 deaths, giving a rate of 5.2 per thousand of the population. This compared with 4.43 for 1954 and 1953, 4.58 for 1952 and 5.39 for 1951. 407 (84%) of the deaths occurred at age 65 and upwards.

Cancer. Cancer and other malignant conditions caused 210 deaths, giving a death rate of 2.3, compared to 2.48 for last year. 138 (66%) occurred at the age of 65 and upwards, compared to 145 (62%) last year.

Cerebral Haemorrhage. Cerebral haemorrhage accounted for 217 deaths, giving a death rate of 2.38, compared to 2.23 for last year. 184 (85%) of the deaths occurred at the age of 65 and upwards, compared to 179 (85%) last year.

Tuberculosis. Tuberculosis caused 8 deaths, giving a rate of 0.09 per thousand of the population, the lowest figure yet recorded. The rates for previous years were 0.20 for 1950, 0.18 for 1951, 0.12 for 1952, 0.15 for 1953 and 0.10 for 1954, the corresponding figures for Scotland being 0.54, 0.43, 0.32, 0 26 0.22 and 0.19 for the years 1950-55 respectively.

Of the 8 deaths, 7 were due to respiratory tuberculosis (0.08 per thousand, compared to 0.10 for last year). The 1955 figure for Scotland was 0.17 per thousand. The average number of deaths from respiratory tuberculosis in the area in five-yearly periods for the last twenty-five years was 1931-35 - 32; 1936-40 - 26; 1941-46 - 29; 1946-50 - 25; 1951-55 - 10. The last figure undoubtedly shows the effect of the earlier diagnosis and modern methods of treatment.

There was one death from non-respiratory tuberculosis (0.01 per thousand population, Scotland 0.02). The average number of deaths from non-respiratory tuberculosis in five-yearly periods for the last twenty-five years was 1931-35 - 14; 1936-40 - 11, 1941-45 - 15, 1946-50 - 5; 1951-55 - 2, which also shows a very satisfactory improvement.

Table 4 - Combined County. Various death rates, 1911-1955

Years	Senile Death Rate %	Heart Disease	Cerebral Haemorrhage and other diseases of blood vessels	Cancer and other malignant conditions	Tuberculosis all forms ¢
1911-15					1.13
1916-20					0.96
1921-25					0.78
1926-30					0.60
1931-35	59.7	2.60	1.72	1.95	0.49
1936-40	63.1	3.10	1.72	1.93	0.40
1941-45	66.5	3.94	1.78	2.00	0.47
1946-50	68.0	4.44	1.93	2.12	0.32
1951-55	73.5	4.86	2.12	2.24	0.15

¢ - 1911-30, figures refer to Perth County only.
Except Senile Death Rate, rates are per thousand population.

Table 4 shows, for selected diseases, the changes which have occurred in the respective death rates during the last twenty-five years. In the case of tuberculosis, figures are available to cover the last forty-five years.

Tuberculosis has declined to roughly one-tenth of what it was fifty years ago, and moreover the decline has proceeded steadily during the period with an acceleration during the last ten years.

The death rate for cancer and other malignant diseases has increased by 15% and for cerebral haemorrhage by 23% during the last twenty-five years. These figures, however, roughly parallel the improvement in the ordinary senile death rate referred to above, which increased by 18.5% during the same period. The figures suggest that the present cancer rate is rather less, and the cerebral haemorrhage rate only slightly more than might have been anticipated.

The death rate for heart disease, however, shows an increase much beyond anything to be anticipated from the increased life expectation. Table 5 shows the deaths from heart disease (averages 1951-55) expressed as rates per thousand living in the various age groups at the 1951 census, which may be regarded as giving a reasonably close approximation to the true position. It will be seen that male experience is uniformly worse than female. In the 45-55 year group, the incidence amongst males is almost twice that of females, and in the 55-65 year group it is nearly 2½ times higher amongst males. Both the total increase and the disproportionate incidence among males in the prime of life present serious problems for which so far no acceptable explanation has been offered.

Table 5. Deaths from Heart Disease (averages 1951-55) expressed as rates for 1,000 living at 1951 Census

	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85-
Males		0.42	1.13	5.38	14.1	35.5	95.2
Females		0.32	0.62	2.42	8.9	31.0	88.2

Respiratory Disease, (excluding pulmonary tuberculosis) accounted for 66 deaths, giving a death rate of 0.71 per thousand, compared to 0.50 for 1954. Bronchitis caused 22 deaths, of which 19 occurred at the age of 65 years and upwards, pneumonia caused 32 deaths, of which 4 occurred at the age of less than one year, and other respiratory diseases caused 12 deaths.

Violent Deaths numbered 65, of which 8 were due to suicide, 17 to road accidents and 40 to other forms of violence

Maternal Mortality. There were no deaths from puerperal causes, compared with 3 (2.05 per thousand births) last year.

Infant Mortality. There were 41 deaths at ages less than one year, giving an infantile mortality rate of 28 per thousand births, compared to 20 per thousand births last year. The figure for Scotland was 30, compared to 31 for last year. Although the County figures shows a slight increase over the last two years, the table below shows the steady improvement which has occurred over the last forty-five years:-

Table 6. Infantile Mortality Rates - 1911-1955

Years	Perth County	Kinross County	Combined County	Scotland
1911-15	68			113
1916-20	65			100
1921-25	58			92
1926-30	58			86
1931-35	55	58	56	81
1936-40	57	59	57	76
1941-45	47	50	48	68
1946-50	32	40	34	47
1951-55	24	37	25	33

31 of the infant deaths during 1955 occurred at ages less than four weeks, giving a neo-natal death rate of 21 per thousand live births.

Of the 41 deaths during the year, only 5 fell into the theoretically preventable group (pneumonia, 4; Diarrhoea, 1). The other 36 deaths were due to the group of causes which includes congenital debility, prematurity and malformations, compared to 26 deaths from these causes in 1954.

There were 33 stillbirths, giving a stillbirth rate of 22.8 per thousand total births, including stillbirths, compared to an average of 22.3 for the years 1950-55.

MEDICAL AND NURSING SERVICES

The general arrangements have remained unchanged.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the following gifts made by Nursing Associations during the year, which are greatly appreciated: East Carse - heater for clinic; Braco - Nursing equipment, West Carse - Furnishings.

New houses were completed at Dunblane and Strathyre and it is hoped that the clinic premises at Dunblane will be ready for occupation early in the new year. During the year work commenced on the provision of a new house at Dunning and clinic premises at Aberfeldy, Longforgan, Bridge of Earn and Crieff. The County Council have now purchased the District Nurse's house at Logierait and have agreed to a scheme of reconstruction at the Old Police Station at Pitlochry to provide a house and clinic for the District Nurse. Negotiations are in progress for the provision of nurses' houses at Auchtergaven, Almondbank and Auchterarder.

The information given below is in the form called for by the Department of Health for Scotland. All the Nursing Services are carried out by the District Nurses and the District figures are tabulated at the end of this Report.

1. Care of Mothers and Young Children.

(a) Ante-natal and Post-natal Clinics. No clinics are held in the County, but County patients attend the clinics run by Perth Infirmary and Stirling Infirmary in these cities in conjunction with the local Health Authorities. During 1955, 523 cases from the Joint County received ante-natal and/or post-natal care at the Perth Clinic, making 2643 attendances. Figures for Stirling are not available.

(b) Child Welfare Clinics. All the child welfare work in the County is carried out by the District Nurses as Health Visitors, but during 1955, 11 children from the surrounding area made 39 attendances at Perth City Clinics.

(c) Dental Care. Under the priority dental scheme, 74 expectant mothers, 144 nursing mothers and 1 pre-school child received treatment during the year.

(d) Mother and Baby Homes. None are provided.

(e) Day Nurseries. None are provided.

(f) Residential Nurseries and Children's Homes. No Homes are provided by the Authority for this group, but arrangements came into operation at the beginning of the year whereby all babies requiring residential accommodation are admitted to Pitversie Nursery, Abernethy, and during the year 46 babies were accommodated there.

(g) Nurseries and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948. One application for registration was granted in respect of a morning Nursery in Callander to take a maximum of six children between the ages of 2½ and 5 years.

(h) Family Planning. Advice is available to County cases at the Mothers' Welfare Clinic, Perth, and the Stirling Family Planning Clinic, both run by voluntary agencies, with small grants from the County Council.

During the year 1955, 95 old cases and 82 new cases made 259 attendances at the Perth Clinic and 14 old cases and 15 new cases made 38 attendances at the Stirling Clinic.

(i) Melville House. This organisation is largely supported by local authorities and during the year 24 cases (2 Maternity, 5 Family and 17 Adoption) were dealt with

(j) Marriage Guidance. During the year discussions took place with the object of setting up a Perth and Perthshire Marriage Guidance Council to be based on Perth, and it is anticipated that this service will be available early in 1956. It will be run on a voluntary basis. Similar Councils are already operating in Dundee and Stirling, so that with the establishment of the Perth Centre, the whole area will be covered.

(k) Prevention of break-up of Families. D.H.S. Circular 77/1954 drew attention to the bad effects on the health, especially the mental health, of children, which often follow the break-up of the family and stressed that "Not only is it an important part of the local health authorities' duty to prevent physical and mental illhealth, but there are also strong financial reasons, having regard to the high cost of curative measures and particularly of hospital treatment and of the institutional and residential accommodation which local authorities provide under their various statutory powers".

Reference was made to this subject in last year's Annual Report, when it was stated that increasing efforts were being made to prevent children from coming into care, or to be separated from their own homes or their own people, and that from the outset the Children's Officer had directed his efforts towards maintaining the family as a unit, efforts which had met with a considerable degree of success.

In this area the Children's Department operates as an integral part of the County Health and Welfare Department, so that in this matter the whole Department can work as one team to ensure that all available services, voluntary as well as statutory, can be made available as required. These may include encouragement of the mother by regular visits by the Distr ct Nurse, provision of domestic help during illness of the mother, temporary care of children in Home or Nursery during mother's illness or during periods of crisis, and on occasion rehousing.

On rehousing, the County and Burgh Councils have agreed to consider special cases, although it is not always easy to secure acceptance of a problem family which is usually all too well known to local residents. It should also not be forgotten that the great majority of Council houses are allocated to families with children, although here again the housing needs of recently married couples are not always adequately demonstrated by the points systems. Accommodation in the parents' home may be all right for a young couple for a time, but when the next generation appears, difficulties are apt to arise which may sow the seeds of future family discord.

The County Council has now definitely decided to build a residential school for mentally handicapped children. Provision for these children has for long been totally inadequate and, as has been stressed so often in School Health Reports, it is uneconomic not to provide proper education for these children. Many families are at present suffering because of the continual presence of a mentally handicapped child for whom no proper educational facilities are available, and on a long term view it is wrong that these children should not be fitted to take their place in the community and be self-supporting for the future. As a corollary, however, it must be stressed that many more institutional beds for ineducables are urgently required in this Region.

At the other end of life's span, much the same considerations apply. The efforts of the Department are bent towards doing everything to keep the old person, if not in his own home, at least in the family circle, and it is suggested that when considering housing allocations, housing authorities should give additional attention to cases where it is proposed to accommodate an old person as part of the family.

In general it can be said that arrangements in the County are in line with the spirit of the Department's circular. All our endeavours are to keep the family together and all our agencies are co-operating to this end.

(l) Welfare Foods. The joint arrangement with Perth City with a central Welfare Foods Department located at the office of the City Medical Officer of Health, was described in last year's Report and has continued to work satisfactorily. Local distribution in the County is almost entirely in the hands of the District Nurses and it has already been suggested that a disproportionate amount of nurses' time is being taken up both in distribution and in the complicated recording system with the continued use of stamped tokens.

Some idea of the extent of the work involved in distribution can be gained from the figures of sales of Welfare Foods. During the year ending 31/3/56, the County centres issue 45,094 tins of National Dried Milk, 10,475 bottles of cod liver oil, 2923 packets of Vitamen Tablets and 49,723 bottles of Orange Juice.

2. **Midwifery Service.** 684 births occured in the area during the year, of which 671 were live births and 13 stillbirths. Of the 684 births, 290 took place in institutions and 394 at home 388 of the home confinements were attended by the District Nurses and 6 by private practising midwives. In 223 of these cases a doctor had been engaged and was present at the confinement; in 146 cases a doctor had been engaged, but was not present at the confinement.

All the district nurses are trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and sets of apparatus are available in every district. During the year gas and air analgesia was administered in 195 cases and pethidine was administered in 216 cases

Trilene is not available, but at the Refresher Course in October, 1955, the District Nurses had a talk and demonstration of trilene apparatus and the Council have agreed that as gas and air machines become obsolete, they will be replaced by trilene apparatus and allocated to District Nurses who have been trained in its use whilst in hospital.

3. **Health Visiting.** A total of 37,143 visits were paid by the District Nurses as Health visitors. Of these, 3677 visits were paid to expectant mothers, including 941 first visits; 13,484 visits were paid to children under the age of one year, including 2825 first visits; 14,759 visits were paid to children between the ages of 1 and 5 years including 5621 first visits; and 3569 visits were paid for advisory purposes to persons suffering from tuberculosis. Nurses' efforts in the field of health education are described later in this Report.

4 Home Nursing. A total of 99,053 home nursing visits were made by the District Nurses during the year to a total of 6037 persons. An increasing number of visits was made to give injections of various sorts, chiefly antibiotics, but there was also an increase in the number of visits to old people, 52,989 visits being made to 2180 persons over the age of sixty-five. No special arrangements are made for nursing sick children, which is undertaken as part of the general arrangements for home nursing.

5 Domestic Help. During the year 47 part-time domestic helps were employed under the Domestic Help Scheme and 96 cases were dealt with, made up as follows:- Home Confinements 11, Tuberculosis 9, Miscellaneous cases, mainly old people no longer able to manage alone, 76. Sitters-in are not employed as such, and night help is provided only in home confinement cases.

6. Vaccination and Immunisation.

Vaccination. The number of vaccinations notified during the year was 1022. During 1954, the District Nurses had been instructed to give further attention to propaganda to encourage infant vaccination, and information abstracted from Child Welfare Records showed that at 31/12/55, 68% of children aged 0-12 months had been vaccinated. A more exact survey, however, has since been completed, as part of a wider project sponsored by the Scottish Branch of the Society of Medical Officers of Health. Information was abstracted from Child Welfare Records to show the number of children born during the year 1955 and on the Child Welfare Lists, who by 30th June, 1956 had been vaccinated. This shows that by that date, of the 1286 children on the Child Welfare Lists 90% had been vaccinated, a highly satisfactory figure.

Although the figure is likely to have been influenced by the increased propaganda carried out by the District Nurses during 1955, even so, the records show that at 31/12/55, 86% of children aged 1-5 years on the Child Welfare Lists had been vaccinated. Records from school medical inspections show that 79% of those examined during the year ending 31/7/55 had been vaccinated. The percentages vary slightly between the groups: entrants 75%, 1945 group 79%, 1941 group 85% and 1938 group 73%.

Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus. During 1955, 1376 children were notified as having been immunised against diphtheria and 1289 had received a reinforcing dose. Information abstracted from the Child Welfare Records shows that at 31/12/55, the overall percentage of children aged 1 - 5 years immunised against diphtheria reached the very satisfactory figure of 90%.

It is again gratifying to record that no confirmed cases of diphtheria occurred in the area during the year, the last cases having occurred in October 1947 and the last deaths in 1944.

1955 was the first complete year of the scheme to provide for combined immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. At 31/12/55, 31% of children aged 0-12 months had completed the combined immunising course, and as nearly half of these babies would be too young to have completed the course the percentage is encouraging. 52% of children aged 1 - 5 had had combined immunisation, which is very satisfactory considering that the scheme was started only in August 1954, and that children in the higher ranges of this group would have received their immunisation against diphtheria only, prior to the introduction of this scheme.

Propaganda. The excellent response to vaccination and immunisation in this area is very largely due to the efforts of the District Nurses in co-operation with the family doctors. Figures are abstracted twice a year and the summarised results, detailed for each District are issued both to District Nurses and the family doctors in the area. As a result, over the last few years the variations between districts have been levelled up very considerably. No other form of propaganda is employed.

7. Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care.

(a) Tuberculosis. The close association between the staff of the County Health Department and the Area Tuberculosis Physician continues. Much of the immediate preventive work, e.g. examination of contacts, is done by the Area Tuberculosis Physician on behalf of the County Council, but the Council staff operate directly a scheme for the tuberculin testing and where necessary the B.C.G. vaccination of school leavers, and details of this is given below.

Table 7 - Tuberculosis

	Average 1931-35	Average 1936-40	Average 1941-45	Average 1946-50	Average 1951-55	1955
New confirmed cases -						
Respiratory	53	54	58	75	66	46
Non-Respiratory	54	57	53	27	22	18
Cases on list at 31st Dec.						
Respiratory	145	164	166	255	400	453
Non-Respiratory	163	222	203	161	120	121
Number of cases receiving Institutional treatment	115	119	139	123	136*	130*
Deaths -						
Respiratory	32	26	29	26	10	7
Non-respiratory	14	11	15	5	2	1

* - Respiratory cases only

The number of new respiratory cases this year shows a further fall, last year's figure being 58, and the previous year 74. It is gratifying to note that this figure has now fallen below the average for the pre-war years. There were 453 respiratory cases remaining on the list at 31/12/55, as against 446 in 1954, these figures representing the carryover of the higher incidence in the past few years. 130 respiratory cases received hospital care, compared to 140 last year, and there was no delay in admission. The deaths too confirm the downward trend in the disease, being 7 this year compared to 9 last year and an average of 10 for the years 1951-55.

As anticipated, non-respiratory cases continue to show a fall, there being 18 new cases compared to 23 last year, and there was one death.

Fig. 1

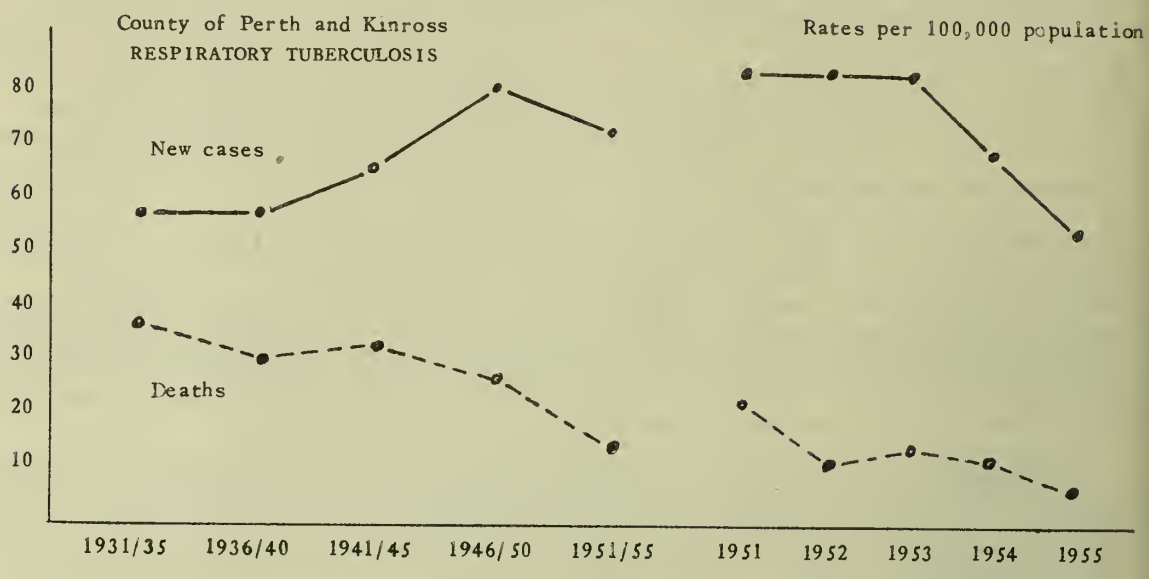


Fig. 2

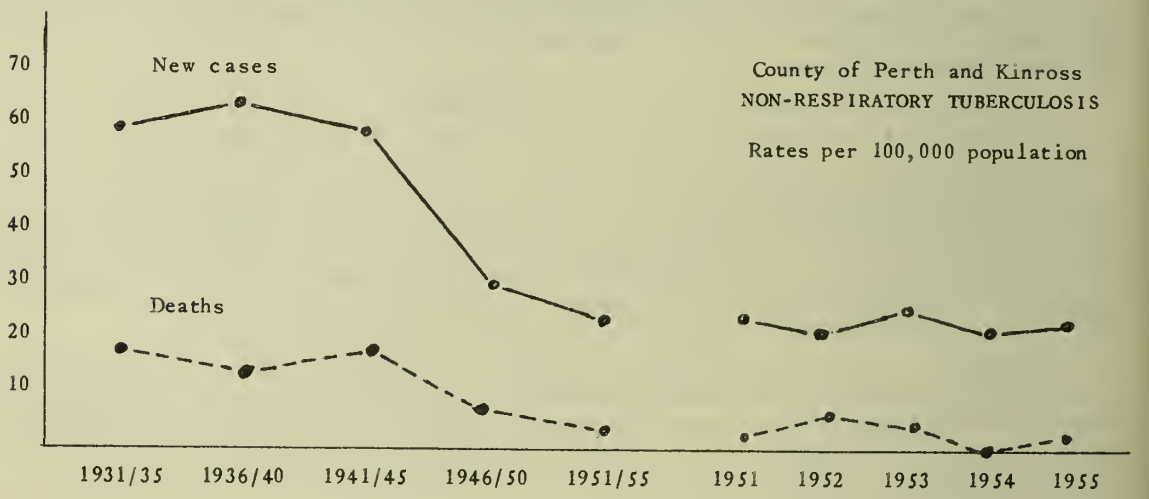


Table 7 shows in five-yearly averages, the numbers of new cases and deaths over the last twenty-five years. This is shown graphically in Figs. 1 and 2, the numbers being converted into rates per 100,000 population. This information played an important part in the assessment of the need for the introduction of B.C.G. vaccination and its significance is discussed further below, under B.C.G. vaccination.

326 contacts of respiratory cases were examined, an average of 7.0 per confirmed case, compared to 5.0 per confirmed case last year, and in addition 42 contacts of non-pulmonary cases were examined, as against 16 last year. Active disease was found in only 2 contacts, both contacts of respiratory cases. This may seem a somewhat meagre return, but the work is very well worth while, since prompt treatment of the early case is one of the most useful preventive measures available to us.

Under the general scheme providing for B.C.G. vaccination, 212 persons were tuberculin tested. Of these 80 were found to be tuberculin negative and were successfully vaccinated. These figures do not include the group of school leavers which are dealt with separately below

During the year extra nourishment grants were given in 39 cases and as usual sputum containers and disinfectants were supplied where required.

B.C.G. Vaccination of School Children. The Scheme for B.C.G. vaccination of school children is now operating successfully and is carried out within the framework of the School Health Service, simultaneously with the Perth Town Council scheme. The children originally included were those due to reach their fifteenth birthday during the school session and last year, the first year of the scheme, pupils in the senior secondary departments were also included. It was found, however, in cases where the children left school at their fifteenth birthday, this did not allow sufficient time for adequate retesting and follow-up and the scheme has been amended to include children aged 14, so that this year the figures given represent a two years age group. Full details of the work done under the scheme have already been issued as a separate report, but the summarised results are shown in Appendix III.

The scheme is run on a voluntary basis, written parental consent being required. There was an overall acceptance rate of 91% compared to 84% last year. 2486 children were tuberculin tested, with an overall positive rate of 32%, and 1697 children received B.C.G. vaccination

As far as the County is concerned there is little difference between boys (33%) and girls (30%) but there are still wide differences between the individual schools, ranging from 19% positive at Methven to 46% positive at Scone. The percentages for the various districts in the County are as follows:- Perth District 29%, Eastern District 42%, Highland District 26%, Central District 27%, Western District 27%, Kinross District 43%

The case for B.C.G. vaccination depends partially on the interpretation of the information set out graphically in Figs. 1 and 2. If the post war figures are compared with the prewar figures, it will be seen that there was roughly a 50% increase in the respiratory cases, but a 50% decrease in the non-respiratory cases.

The decrease in the non-respiratory cases could readily be explained. Between the wars, it was shown that bovine infection was responsible for roughly 50% of all cases of non-respiratory tuberculosis. It could not altogether be a coincidence, therefore, to find a 50% decrease in non-respiratory tuberculosis following on the virtual elimination of bovine infection from our milk supplies.

On the other hand, respiratory tuberculosis has always been almost entirely due to the human type of tubercle bacillus, so that the elimination of bovine infection would not be expected to reduce the figures for this form of the disease. It must be accepted, however, that the survivors of bovine infection had some degree of immunity to subsequent infection with the human organism. Having virtually eliminated bovine infection, and thereby saved many lives, at the same time the opportunity for acquiring this relative immunity to subsequent human infection was removed, and the number of respiratory cases, therefore, increased. In short, the 50% increase in respiratory cases has occurred because there had been a 50% decrease in the non-respiratory cases.

It could not be claimed that this was the only explanation of the increased respiratory incidence, but it could be claimed that it accounted for at least a considerable part of the increase, and it therefore had become an urgent matter to provide this relative immunity by other means. The position appeared to be analogous to that existing a century ago with regard to smallpox vaccination with the dangerous variola virus of smallpox, now abandoned and replaced by vaccination with the safe vaccinia virus of cowpox. Today, instead of chance infection with the dangerous bovine tubercle bacillus, the safe procedure of B.C.G. vaccination has been substituted.

A scheme to provide B.C.G. vaccination for school leavers was adopted simultaneously by the County and Town Councils in 1953 and became effective during school session 1953-54, this area being amongst the first in Scotland. At present infant vaccination with B.C.G. is reserved for newborn babies in tuberculous households who are specially at risk.

Results of B.C.G. Vaccination. It is perhaps rather early to look for firm results from the B.C.G. vaccinations carried out, but at least it is gratifying to record that at 31/12/55 none of the 1250 children vaccinated early in 1954 and none of the 1700 children vaccinated early in 1955 have so far developed tuberculosis. These figures include both County and City children.

Further evidence of the value of B.C.G. vaccination is to be found in the First (Progress) Report by the Medical Research Council on B.C.G. vaccine in the Prevention of Tuberculosis in Adolescents (B.M.J. 25/2/56). This controlled clinical trial included nearly 57,000 children of school leaving age and the report gives preliminary results after each participant had been in the trial for two and a half years, with supplementary incomplete information up to four years.

The results show an 82% reduction of tuberculosis during the 2½ years period amongst the children given B.C.G. vaccine, which provides ample support for the statement made in the County Council's explanatory letter to parents that B.C.G. vaccination would provide a substantial degree of protection against tuberculosis. The protection conferred by the vaccine was evident soon after it had been given and was still substantial between two and two and a half years later. The supplementary incomplete information up to four years suggests that the protection is maintained for this period, the latest for which information is so far available.

Mass Radiography. In conjunction with the B.C.G. scheme, the Council has also introduced a scheme for the chest X-ray by M.M.R. of all children approaching school leaving age who did not receive B.C.G. vaccination, namely those who showed positive results to the tuberculin test and those who did not participate in the B.C.G. scheme. During 1955, 868 pupils were examined under this scheme, which included 62 pupils from a private school who were included for other reasons. Of the 806 pupils attending County schools examined, 59 children were recalled for large films and of these, 24 cases required further investigation, including two who had active pulmonary lesions requiring treatment. In addition, one County pupil attending a City school was found to have an active pulmonary lesion requiring treatment.

This survey also included teaching, clerical, dining staff and janitors employed in schools in Perth City and the Joint County, along with nursing staff and the staff of Children's Nurseries and Homes. The total number examined was 991 (men 281, women 710) made up as follows:- teachers 689, other school staff 230, nurses 48, Children's Homes, etc. 24. Of the 991 examined recall for large film was necessary in 38 cases and of these 23 were found to require further investigation, including two who had active post-primary tuberculosis requiring treatment.

While a survey of this nature is certainly not a cheap weapon, the discovery in our school population at an earlier stage than would otherwise be the case of five cases of tuberculosis (3 children, 2 adults) requiring treatment is, in the long view, economically justifiable and it is hoped to continue this service on an annual basis.

During the course of the above survey, the M.M.R. Unit was made available at Kinross for a public session and a session was also held for the two larger factories in Kinross Burgh. At the works' survey, 129 people were examined and large films were required in 7 cases, but nothing of moment was disclosed. Advertisement of the public session was by press and door-to-door publicity and the response was very successful, 325 persons presenting themselves for

examination. A two hour session had been advertised, but a half-hour extension was necessary and even so, the number dealt with was a record for the Unit. Of the 325 persons examined, large films were required in 32 cases. One case did not attend for large film, and 8 required further investigation, but no cases of active tuberculosis were found.

The total number X-rayed in the works and public sessions at Kinross was 454 and while this was considered satisfactory, it only represents about 24% of the adult population. It is hoped to try the experiment in another part of the area next year.

(b) Epileptics and Spastics. Nothing new is available to supplement the information given on this subject in the Report for last year.

(c) Chiropody Chiropody services are provided by voluntary organisations at a number of places in the County. At Alyth and Blairgowrie the service is provided free from the funds of the former District Nursing Associations. At Auchterarder, the service is provided by the Old People's Welfare Committee at a small charge. At Crieff, first in this field in the County, the service is provided by the Red Cross and Old People's Welfare Committee jointly with grant from the County Council and at a small charge. At Dunkeld, Dunblane and Doune, the service is provided by the local Old People's Welfare Committee with County Council grant and at a small charge.

(d) Health Education. The usual short talks and demonstrations on health topics were given during the year by the District Nurses to Women's Organisations, mostly W.R.I. meetings, the total number being 39 talks and 23 demonstrations. Five meetings were held for various adult organisations at which a talk was given by a member of the medical staff of the County Health Department.

The Medical Lecturer of the Scottish Council for Health Education paid a week's visit to the County, giving lectures and film shows to the pupils of two primary schools and eight junior secondary schools.

8 Infectious Diseases. During the year 1955, the death rate per thousand of the population from the principal infectious diseases was 0.05 for the Combined County, compared to an average of 0.08 for the previous five years.

The number of confirmed cases of infectious disease coming to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health, whether by notification or otherwise, is shown below:-

Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	Pneumonia, not otherwise notifiable	6
Diphtheria	-	Poliomyelitis	12
Dysentery	23	Puerperal Fever	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	Puerperal Pyrexia	4
Erysipelas	12	Scarlet Fever	38
Acute Infective Jaundice	-	Tuberculosis, pulmonary	46
Malaria	2	Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary	18
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	Typhoid Fever	-
Pneumonia, acute influenzal	5	Paratyphoid Fever	-
Pneumonia, acute primary	9	Whooping Cough	109

The general level of incidence of infectious disease remained low. 23 cases of dysentery were notified, the largest number since 1944 when 36 cases were notified. Notification of this disease, however, is not regarded as a very accurate index of its true incidence in an area. There were only 38 cases of scarlet fever notified, the lowest figure yet recorded. 20 cases of pneumonia were notified, though there were 32 deaths registered from this cause. The number of notifications of whooping cough has dropped to 109, the number for last year being 410. The introduction of combined diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus vaccine as the routing immunising procedure in August, 1954 is bound to have played some part in this reduction, but it will be some years yet before its full effect can be assessed. For the eighth year in succession no cases of diphtheria occurred.

During the year, 12 cases of poliomyelitis were confirmed in the area. This is the same as for 1950 and is the highest figure since the major epidemic of 1947 when 30 cases occurred. Of the 12 cases in 1955, 2 were ill on arrival in the area, so that there were 10 indigenous cases. These occurred at Alyth (1), Blairgowrie (2), Burrelton (2), Auchterarder (1), Kinross (1), and Scone (3). Each of these cases was subjected to detailed investigation, but contact could not be demonstrated except for the three Scone cases which attended the same school. Public opinion is always very sensitive on the subject of poliomyelitis, but the local reaction to the three Scone cases was unusually acute, with the wildest rumours gaining credence, and only allayed after a very full meeting of parents had been addressed by the County Medical Officer. All the cases were relatively mild, residual disability being present in only three cases.

9 Venereal Diseases. The figures for new cases from this area in attendance at the clinics at Perth, Dundee and Stirling are shown below -

	Perth	Dundee	Stirling	Totals
(a) Syphilis	7	-	1	8
(b) Gonorrhoea	16	3	2	21
(c) Other venereal conditions	13	22	1	36
Total	36	25	4	65
(d) Non-venereal conditions	5	10	3	18
	41	35	7	83

This is the largest number of new cases since 1949

10. Mental Health. During the year, 30 persons were admitted to Mental Hospitals at the instance of Authorised Officers - Murthly Hospital 26, Murray Royal Hospital 2, Stratheden Hospital 2. Of this number 6 were admitted as voluntary patients.

Three certified mental defectives were admitted to hospital during the year - Baldovan Institution 2, Royal Scottish National Institution 1. This represents only a small proportion of those requiring such accommodation.

No mental defectives were boarded out during the year. The number under guardianship at the end of the year was four.

On behalf of the Eastern Regional Hospital Board, statutory supervision and aftercare were given to 6 persons suffering from mental illness and who had been placed under guardianship or allowed out of hospital on probation.

Extensive use of the Perth Mental Health Clinic continued to be made during the year.

No occupation centres have so far been provided by the County Council although this is now under consideration. A small voluntary centre is run in Blairgowrie by a group of interested parents.

11. Orthopaedic Service. This Regional Hospital Service continued to run within the framework of the County Health Department, with advantages to all concerned. The undernoted figures show the work done during the year.

	Pre-school		School children		Adults		Total
	City	County	City	County	City	County	
Attendances at Surgeon's Clinics	400	580	646	1225	2	38	2891
Cases under treatment	64	157	201	181	-	-	603
Cases under observation	95	116	121	99	-	38	469
Number of treatments	586	2272	3513	3156	-	-	9527
New cases during the year	84	163	128	172	-	-	547
Discharges during the year	25	22	129	201	2		379
Admissions to Bridge of Earn Hospital	11	5	31	53	-	-	100

12. Registration of Nursing Homes. There are three private Nursing Homes registered in the area:-

1 at Crieff (Medical only)
1 at Aberfoyle (Medical only)
1 at Callander (Medical only).

SCHOOL HEALTH

A separate report has been issued for the year ended 31st July, 1955

WELFARE SERVICE

Mr. W. Brannan, Chief Administrative Assistant.

Residential Accommodation. Admissions and discharges during the year to the County Council's Residential Homes were as follows:-

	Strathearn	Cuil-an-Daraich	Cottage Home	St. John's Mount
In residence at 31/12/54	28	25	7	6
Admissions during year	14	21	4	4
Discharges during year	16	17	3	4
In residence at 31/12/55	26	29	8	6

Voluntary Homes for Old People with which agreements had been entered into to pay supplementation for those residents unable to meet the full maintenance charge numbered six

The Homes and the number of residents for whom payment was made during the year were as follows:-

Belmont Castle Eventide Home, Meigle	10
David Watson Home, Gargunnock	1
Hope Park Home, Blairgowrie	10
Mailer Home, Auchterarder	4
Whitelaw Home of Rest, Auchterarder	5
Richmond House, Crieff	11

No temporary accommodation required to be provided during the year.

Hospital Care. On behalf of the Eastern Regional Hospital Board accommodation continued to be provided in Strathearn Home and Cuil-an-Daraich for long term sick cases.

Admissions and discharges during the year were as follows:-

	Strathearn	Cuil-an-Daraich
In Sick Beds at 31/12/54	31	17
Admissions during year	17	10
Discharges and deaths during year	21	10
In Sick Beds at 31/12/55	27	17

Welfare of the Aged. No new Local Old People's Welfare Committees were formed, the number functioning at the end of the year remaining at thirteen. Five of these Committees are now operating a Meals Service for Old People and seven either on their own or in conjunction with other local organisations are operating a Chiropody Service. These Committees together with the County Council's Nursing and Domestic Help Services are playing an important part in enabling many old people to remain in their own Homes who would otherwise require to be admitted to Residential Homes or Hospitals.

Welfare Services for Handicapped Persons.

(a) Blind. The Society for Teaching the Blind to Read in the County and City of Perth continues to carry out the duties of the Council in relation to the Blind and the partially sighted. During the year ended 31/3/55, ten persons were certified blind and registered for the first time. The total number of blind persons on the Register at the end of the year was 132. Details of these cases are as follows:-

Age Groups	5-15	16-20	21-39	40-59	60-69	70+	Total
	6	1	12	24	26	63	132

Children (1 - 15)	At School	3
	Not at school (includes 3 additionally handicapped)	3
Adults	In sheltered employment - Workshops for the Blind	8
	In other employment	6
	Undergoing training	1
	Not available for employment - housewives, retired persons, etc.	92
	Not capable of work	19

(b) Deaf and Dumb. The Dundee Mission to the Deaf and Dumb continued to carry out on behalf of the Council their duties in relation to the deaf and dumb. There were 9 persons on the Register of Deaf and Dumb persons at the end of the year.

(c) Other Handicapped Persons. During the year the County Council were responsible for the maintenance of three cases in Anton House for Cripple Girls and one in the Epileptic Colony, Bridge of Weir.

Under the scheme for the training of home-bound persons based on Anton House there were ten cases from this area being trained or supervised at the end of the year. Two additional knitting machines for the use of these cases were acquired during the year.

Removal of Persons in urgent need of care. There were no cases necessitating the use of compulsory powers of removal during the year.

Care of Property of Persons admitted to Hospital, etc. Arrangements required to be made for the protection of movable property in three new cases. Including property taken into care in previous years protection was given in twelve cases during the year.

Burial or Cremation of the Dead. During the year the burial of sixteen persons was carried out.

Registration of Old People's Homes. Two new Homes were registered during the year, the number on the Register at the end of the year being ten.

CHILDREN

Mr. F. J. Earnshaw, Children's Officer

1 **Children Act.** Number of children in care as at 31st December, 1955, are as follows:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Children in care as at 1/1/55	59	45	104
Children received into care during year	63	44	107
	122	89	211
Children discharged from care during year	50	34	84
Children in care as at 31/12/55	72	55	127

Details of the children in care on 31/12/55 are as follows:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Boarded-out with relatives	12	14	26
Boarded-out with foster-parents	21	11	32
Kippen House, Dunning	18	11	29
Pitversie Nursery, Abernethy	7	5	12
Martha Frew Home, Dunfermline	3	2	5
Dr. Barnardo's Homes	2	2	4
The Orphanage, Aberlour	1	2	3
Children over school leaving age under supervision	8	8	16
	72	55	127

82 children were discharged from care for the following reasons:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Returned to care of parents	48	31	79
Adopted	-	2	2
Attained age of eighteen years	-	1	1
Other reasons	-	-	-
	48	34	82

During the year, a Resolution in terms of Section 2 of the Children Act, 1948, was approved in respect of two brothers. One girl was committed to care by the Court. One Committal Order was revoked after the child had been home with his parents for a trial period

2. Kippen House, Dunning.

(a) Improvements. Only small improvements have been necessary during the year

(b) Staff. Although the Home was understaffed for a time during the year, fortunately there were few changes, which is very beneficial to the Home in general.

(c) Social activities. As in previous years, the social life has been a feature of this Home, creating much interest and excitement for the children. For most of the school summer holidays the children were able to enjoy the good weather and all had a lovely suntan, although the Calamine Lotion bottle was in strong demand for some time. With the weather at its very best, the annual outing to Leven was a great day, as was the trip to St. Andrews as guests of the Perth Ladies' Circle. A new venture was a day to the Edinburgh Zoo and from the excitement and the talk afterwards, it is likely that this will become an annual outing. Guy Fawkes Night is another occasion when the children join in the various activities with great enthusiasm. A few of the older boys and girls were able to "dress up" and go guising in the Village. There was no lack of helpers with the bonfire, as the challenge from the Village had been accepted as to who would have the largest fire. "Dooking" for apples always seems to cause great excitement, and, although there are always a few novices, they are not long in learning the art.

The Christmas Party was very well patronised this year and, although the "Punch and Judy" man has gone, his daughter proved a good substitute. The children enjoyed themselves and the adult audience enjoyed the children's enjoyment.

One again, a very successful Whist Drive was organised by a local Committee and the proceeds handed over to the "Matron's Children's Fund". This Fund is a great asset to the Matron, who can spend it as she deems fit for the children's benefit.

There are various opinions as to whether or not Television is good or bad in a home where there are young children. It is, however, rather difficult to turn down a bargain, and so, when the offer of a Television Projector Model was made for a third of the actual value, it was agreed to purchase the set on the understanding that the cost would be met out of the Sports Fund and that the set would be installed in the Ballroom so that televiewing would be of an organised nature. The set has now been installed, much to the enjoyment and pleasure of the children.

It is very encouraging to know that so many of the various organisations in the County take a real interest in the well-being of the children in Kippen House. Many branches of the Women's Rural Institute visit the home and provide knitted articles from time to time.

A new outing at Christmas was a visit to the Cinerama Picture House with bus, etc., provided by the Manager. The programme was specially for children, and was indeed a very successful outing.

A visit to the Pantomime as guests of the Perth Ladies' Circle with High Tea and ice cream provided afterwards was indeed a very enjoyable outing. This organisation has always taken a keen interest and do quite a lot to introduce variety into the children's lives from year to year.

(d) General. For a time during the year, the number of children in the Home was quite low, but towards the end of the year it was quite the opposite. A few of the children admitted recently have presented quite a problem to their parents, school and the community in general. They present a problem to the Matron and her staff, who are forewarned as to the type of child they have to cope with, and so it provides a great deal of satisfaction that these same children settle down to the everyday life in Kippen. It is not possible to make a Children's Home the same as a natural family home, but it is indeed gratifying to know that a good substitute can be provided. To attain this, there must be an atmosphere of friendliness, as well as a feeling of equality and security. Such can only be achieved by those who live, work and play with the children, and once again all credit goes to the Matron, Mrs. Aitken, and the staff she chooses.

	Boys	Girls	Total
Children in Home as at 1/1/55	10	5	15
Children admitted during year	34	18	52
	44	23	67
Children discharged during year	26	12	38
Children in Home as at 31/12/55	18	11	29

3. **After-Care.** During the year, 21 children in care were supervised. Every effort is made, in co-operation with the Youth Employment Officer, to fit the boy or girl into a job of their own choosing, provided they have the ability, mentally and physically, to carry out the work. As many boys as possible are encouraged to enter a trade and take the apprenticeship course. One boy is attending the Dundee Trades School prior to apprenticeship as an Electrical Engineer. Girls are veering away from domestic and house work, and leaning towards shop assistants. Many of the girls prefer Nursing, either General or Children, but unfortunately most of them lack theoretical ability, and are quite unable to make the grade.

Details of children supervised are as follows:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Hospital Domestic	-	1	1
Trainee Nurse	-	1	1
Hospital Auxiliary	-	1	1
Shop Assistant	-	6	6
Farm Worker	1	1	2
Appr. Chartered Accountant	1	-	1
" Plumber	1	-	1
" Joiner	2	-	2
" Electrician	1	-	1
" Cabinetmaker	1	-	1
" Plasterer	1	-	1
" Engineer	1	-	1
Nurseryman	1	-	1
Builder's Labourer	1	-	1
	11	10	21

4. **Nursery Accommodation.** The arrangement for accommodation at Pitversie Nursery, Abernethy, has been very satisfactory, and from the undernoted details it will be seen that quite a number of infants have passed through the Nursery during the year:-

	Boys	Girls	Total
Children in Nursery as at 1/1/55	3	4	7
Children admitted during year	22	17	39
	25	21	46
Children discharged during year	18	16	34
Children in Nursery as at 31/12/55	7	5	12

5. **Adoption.** During the year, Adoption Orders were granted in respect of two children who were in the Council's care. Three children were placed with a view to adoption, and of these one Order has been granted

In this County, and like most other local Authorities and Adoption Societies, there are waiting lists of couples anxious to adopt young children. There is no doubt that at the present day there is a greater interest being taken in the welfare of children than ever before. In England, some 14,000 adoptions occur yearly, and some 1,500 in Scotland. Sufficient time has now elapsed for the question of "research" being considered with a view to ascertaining various effects of adoption. It is certain that in years to come its part in the social history of the Country will be regarded as a main feature.

Intimations of intention to apply for an Adoption Order number twenty-two and, in all, thirty-eight cases were supervised during the probationary period.

6. **Children and Young Persons (Scotland) Act, 1937.** Six new intimations in terms of Part I were received during the year, two removed from the Register, making ten on the Register at 31/12/55.

7. **Children neglected or ill-treated in their own homes.** No further progress has been made regarding the Co-ordinating Committee. The R.S.S.P.C.C. have not yet agreed to the local Inspector attending meetings, and it is felt that without this link, the main purpose of the Committee is not likely to be fulfilled. There is full co-ordination within the County Council's own services and there is an excellent personal liaison with the local R.S.S.P.C.C. Inspector. In a number of cases, however, it is felt that better co-ordination could have been secured and overlapping avoided if a committee had been functioning. Continued efforts are being made to secure the co-operation of the R.S.S.P.C.C. in this matter, but it is becoming clear that if this is not to be forthcoming, it will be necessary to proceed independently.

8. **General Remarks.** Of the 127 children in care at the end of the year, 15 belonged to three families. One family are unfortunate as the result of the parents' inability to provide better living conditions within the home. In the other two families, the mothers have deserted the homes. As the Law stands, no legal action can be taken against a mother deserting her husband and family, although suggestions have been made to have the Law amended so that mothers may be prosecuted, provided circumstances justify such action. It is generally accepted that a mother's absence is a far greater loss to a young family than a father's, and consequently it would seem that an amendment to the present Law is justified. Or should another approach be made to the problem before the marriage is broken and family life shattered? It is to be hoped that the efforts which are being made to establish a Marriage Guidance Council will be successful for it is certain that, as in industrial and thickly populated areas, there is a need for such a Council in this rural and more sparsely populated area.

FOOD SUPPLY

1 Food and Drugs.

Sampling. During 1955, 440 samples were taken compared to 511 during 1954.

Of these, 411 were informal samples comprising sweet milk 281, ice cream 10, mince 4 sausages 3, butter 12, margarine 5, oils and fats 5, cheese 2, meat pastes 9, tinned foods 16, jams and jellies 7, cereals 3, pickles and sauces 9, spices 8, vinegar 2, baking soda 3, cream of tartar 3, baking powder 2, coffee and chicory essence 1, tea 2, miscellaneous - beer, raisins, sweets, lemonade, medicines 24.

Three informal samples of milk reported to be not genuine comprised one showing a slight deficiency in solids not fat; one showed a slight deficiency in milk fat; whilst the other showed slight deficiencies in both non fatty solids and fat. On enquiry it appeared that these deficiencies were due to changes in feeding and follow up samples were satisfactory.

One informal sample of sausages was found to contain 62 parts in excess of the permitted amount but a subsequent formal sample was found to be genuine.

All ice cream samples taken proved to be genuine.

29 official samples were taken, the same number as in 1954. These comprised: sweet milk 7, sausages 4, mince 9, ice cream 3, whisky 6.

Four official samples of mince proved to be non genuine due to Sulphur Dioxide content. In three cases the Vendors were fined £4, £2 and £2 respectively. In the fourth case the Vendor received a warning.

The average quality of the milk supply, based on the samples submitted during the year, remained satisfactory, showing the following results:

Butter fat	3.87%	(standard 3%)
Solids not fat	8.70%	(standard 8.5%)
Total solids	12.57%	(standard 11.5%)
Water	87.52%	(standard 88.5%)

Unsound food. The total weight of assorted food stuffs seized during the year was 1 ton, 1 st. 5 lbs.

Meat Inspection. Details of the animals slaughtered and the condemnations made are shown for the individual slaughterhouses in the County.

1955	Class of Animals	Slaughtered	Wholly Condemned	Partially Condemned	Weight (in lbs.) of condemned meat and offals
Aberfeldy	Cattle	224	5		2230
	Sheep	702	-		-
	Pigs	7	-		-
	Calves	12	-		-
Blairgowrie	Cattle	2367	9	16	10500
	Sheep	8590	58	5	2422
	Pigs	2981	15	4	1620
	Calves	546	4	3	130
Crieff	Cattle	1434	11	10	9105
	Sheep	3000	48	6	3025
	Pigs	581	13	2	1322
	Calves	791	5	-	301
Dunblane	Cattle	518	5	2	2180
	Sheep	1458	2	-	89
	Pigs	184	-	-	-
	Calves	12	-	-	-
Milnathort	Pigs	4845	-	116	661

At Aberfeldy the slaughterhouse is operated by a local butcher. At Blairgowrie the slaughterhouse is leased by a private firm supplying local needs but also killing for export to other parts of the country. Further improvements to this slaughterhouse are under consideration. At Crieff the slaughterhouse is run by the local butchers jointly. At Dunblane the Town Council operates the slaughterhouse direct, primarily to meet local needs, but during the year there was a fair amount of slaughtering for export elsewhere.

During the year work was in hand to provide a private slaughterhouse at a bacon factory in Blairgowrie. When completed, this slaughterhouse, though small and for pigs only, will be of a very high standard.

The high quality of the animals slaughtered during the year was again noteworthy.

Meat inspection at the slaughterhouses is carried out by the local Veterinary Surgeons. Except at Crieff, no detention officers are provided. The system is working reasonably well, but at Blairgowrie the volume of work is rather heavy.

2. **Milk and Dairies.** 19 new applications were registered during the year, and 9 registrations lapsed. The total number of registrations in the Combined County at 31/12/55 was 374 (an increase of 10), comprising 284 in Perth County, 59 in Kinross County and 31 in various burghs. Of these 234 were registered as producers only, 72 as producer/retailers and 68 as retailers only. There were no wholesale dealers only.

Of the 306 producers at 31/12/55, 259 held designated licences, an increase of 16 over the previous year; Certified 26, Tuberculin Tested 233 (an increase of 17) and there was 1 pasteurising plant. Considerable quantities of pasteurised milk however came into the County daily, particularly from Perth, and, apart from a number of remote farms particularly in the Highland District, ample supplies of safe milk are available throughout the area

The average number of cows per dairy herd was 34.5 at 31/12/55 compared to 34.7 in 1954.

Licences (Producers and Pasteurisers)

Designation	New Licences granted during year	No. Suspended	No. Revoked	No. Discon- tinued for other reasons	No. in force at end of year
Certified	1	-	-	1	26
T.T.	20	-	-	3	233
Pasteurised	-	-	-	-	1
Non-Desig.	-	-	-	-	46

Bacteriological Examination of Producers' Milk

Designation	No. of Samples taken	No. of Samples failing	No. of Producers with			
			1 Failure	2 Failures	3 Failures	4 Failures
Certified	187	35	6	4	3	2
T.T.	1334	140	54	23	4	7

Biological Testing for Tuberculosis

Type of Milk	No. of Samples Examined	No. of Positive Results	No. of Producers involved in positive results
Non-Desig.	31	-	-
T.T.	27	-	-
Certified	3	-	-

Ordinary Producer Retailers

No. of Farms	No. of Samples	No. of Samples consistently up to standard	No. of Farms where samples failed	
			on one occasion	on two or more occasions
17	36	34	2	-

In the Report for last year reference was made to the progress of the Attestation Scheme in the County. On 1/3/55 the following areas of the County became Eradication areas. the County of Kinross, the whole of the Western District of Perthshire, and the parishes of Blackford, Glendevon and Muckhart in the Central District, and by the end of the year all this area had become attested. It is anticipated that the remainder of the County will not now be long in following suit.

No information is available regarding the number of exempted premises. The number must still be large, although likely to be steadily decreasing since designated milks are now available almost everywhere.

No outbreaks of disease associated with milk are known to have occurred during the year.

3. **Ice Cream.** During the year, 5 additional registrations were approved under the Ice Cream (Scotland) Regulations 1948. Of these 3 were for storage and sale, 1 for manufacture, storage and sale, and 1 for sale only.

There was 1 removal from the Register, for manufacture, storage and sale. At 31/12/55 there were 140 registrations in force, comprising 38 for manufacture, storage and sale, 80 for storage and sale, 13 for sale only, and 9 in respect of vehicles (4 for storage and sale and 5 for sale only).

13 samples were submitted for chemical analysis, 3 formal and 10 informal, and all were found to comply.

26 samples were taken for bacteriological examination and of these 19 were found to conform to the suggested standard. In the case of the 7 samples which failed the test follow up visits were made by the District Sanitary Inspectors.

4. Food Hygiene. It was not possible with existing staff to make special visits for this purpose, but attention was directed to this matter at routine inspections for other purposes. It is appreciated that further effort will require to be made, and that, when the forthcoming Food Hygiene Regulations come into force. The whole structure of the Sanitary Department will have to be reviewed.

5. Food Poisoning. During the year one group of three cases of food poisoning came to notice. The article involved was home cooked tongue and the symptoms suggested staphylococcal toxaemia but none of the food was available for examination.

6. Nutrition. No change was apparent during the year under review.

PERTH COUNTY

REPORT to Perth County Council on non-transferred Functions

Mr. A.L. Riddell, County Sanitary Inspector

1. Housing

General. The total number of houses erected by Perth County Council up to the end of 1954 was 2285. During 1955, 85 houses were completed and at the end of the year 224 houses were under construction.

Building Byelaws. During the year 445 applications under the byelaws were dealt with. Of this figure 362 were in respect of additions, alterations etc. to individual existing houses and the erection of garages, shops, workshops, temporary camps etc. and 83 applications were in respect of the proposed erection of 247 new houses. Of these 247 new houses 171 were to be built by the County Council (7 of 2 apartments, 120 of 3 apartments, 42 of 4 apartments and 2 of 5 apartments); 76 houses were to be built by private enterprise (5 of 2 apartments, 9 of 3 apartments, 49 of 4 apartments, 8 of 5 apartments, 1 of 6 apartments, 2 of 7 apartments, 1 of 8 apartments, and 1 of 9 apartments). Included in the houses to be built by private enterprise are 16 which were the subject of applications for grant under the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1952 - Section 3.

Housing (Rural Workers) (Scotland) Acts. 1 Certificate 'B' was issued in respect of a house improved with the aid of a grant and this completed the entire scheme. Under these Acts 2,769 houses were improved and a total of £254,315:2:-d. was paid during the years 1928 to 1955 inclusive.

Housing (Scotland) Act, 1952 - Section 3. Approval was given for the erection of 14 houses for agricultural workers and grant was promised in respect of these. Certificates B were issued authorising payment of grant in respect of 11 houses which were completed.

Housing (Scotland) Acts, 1950 - 1954. Of the 445 Building Byelaws applications 160 were the subject of report for improvement grants and of these 148 were approved for grants.

Housing (Repairs and Rents) (Scotland) Act, 1954. Since this Act came into being only 1 Certificate of Disrepair has been issued.

Applications for County Council Houses. During the year the Sanitary Inspectors paid 1035 visits in connection with the award of points to applicants for Council houses.

Housing of Seasonal Workers. This year the accommodation for seasonal workers was found to be reasonably satisfactory. Two sites were adversely reported on last year. At one, a large hutted camp run jointly by several proprietors, improvements were carried out following a meeting with the proprietors, acceptable as a reasonable first instalment. The majority of the joint proprietors are very willing to co-operate in order to reach a satisfactory standard and thus attract a better type of worker. At the other site, conditions were found to be improved, but the farmer concerned has now decided to shift all his accommodation to a new site.

Tents, Vans and Sheds. There was much more camping in the actual berryfields of the Eastern District this year. The weather was ideal for camping, but conditions were found to be most unsatisfactory and little or no attempt was being made to comply with the terms of the Byelaws. Scarcity of water at many places still further aggravated the position.

As local health authority, the County Council has a two fold responsibility in this matter. The Council must first safeguard the health of the campers, which is no easy task, since the majority appear to be unwilling to take even the most elementary hygienic precautions and passively resist any attempt to secure improvement. As a result the better type of picker is fast disappearing from the berryfields. Equally important however is the Council's responsibility to safeguard the health of the consumers of the fruit produced in the area, a fair proportion of which is nowadays consumed uncooked.

Following a report by the Sub-Committee which made the annual visit to the berryfields, it was agreed that by local press advertisement in advance of the 1956 season, the attention of campers and proprietors should be directed to their obligations under the Tents, Vans and Sheds Byelaws, and it was also agreed to consider later the advisability of adding a new clause to the Byelaws to require registration of all sites on which it is proposed to allow berrypickers to camp.

2 Water Supplies.

Sampling. 265 water samples were taken during the year and of these 210 followed complaints, applications for grant under the Agricultural Water Supplies Scheme or during routine investigations. The remaining 55 samples were taken of public water supplies.

General. This year the Loch Turret Regional Supply took a further step forward, the final draft of the Water Order governing the abstraction of water from Loch Turret having now been approved. On the Benachally Regional Scheme further discussions took place with the Blairgowrie, Rattray and District Water Board, with Blairgowrie Town Council and with Coupar Angus Town Council.

During the year £40,890 was spent on distribution mains compared with an estimate of £76,144. A very serious hold up on distribution mainlaying occurred during the year, the Department of Health having indicated a downward revision of grant aid in respect of all Schemes outwith the Loch Turret Supply Area. During the whole of 1955, discussions were proceeding on this matter. By the end of the year, fourteen of the 1955 Schemes were affected although they were otherwise ready to start. Progress however was made elsewhere.

The nucleus of the Kirkton of Lethendy Scheme was virtually completed although all the branch distribution mains were held up. It was put in service at the end of the year. The Fairygreen Supply was finally completed and in service most of the year. The main from Tomaknock to Madderty feeding water temporarily from Crieff Burgh to the Madderty Area was completed in record time, but the section to Gilmerton was still incomplete by the end of the year. The Burrelton supply was extended to feed Kemphill farm, etc. Mains in Aberfoyle were replaced east of the centre of the village. The Dunning supply was extended from Balgour to Innerdunning Farms, etc. A new Intake Dam was built on the Pairney Burn for the Aberuthven supply. The Balbeggie etc., supply was extended to Buttergask. A main was laid off the Railway supply through Crianlarich which will form the basis of a future village supply if required. The Killin mains were extended westward for new house-building. Mains were extended to new Housing Schemes at Sandy Road, Scone, St. Martins Road, Balbeggie, Dunblane, Stanley, Glenfarg and Burrelton. Investigation was carried out into a proposal to augment the Balbeggie etc., supply from Springs at Guildtown. Further mains were relaid in Muthill ahead of road re-surfacing.

There is no further progress to report on the Fearnan supply or the proposed main from Meigle to Coupar Angus.

During the year there were repeated complaints of discolouration in the Stanley Area caused by rusting of the mains following scraping and eventually a small daily dose of metaphosphate was added to the water which effected a complete cure of the trouble.

1955 will go down in Water Supply history as a year of unprecedented drought. This commenced in the late spring although its full effect was not felt in Perthshire owing to a heavy though short rainfall on Sunday, 3rd June, which filled the streams and reservoirs. From that date, however; until the end of October so little rain fell that most of the supplies were in more or less constant jeopardy. The Balbeggie Supply stream dwindled at an early date to about 4,000 gallons per day, the service reservoir almost dried up completely and the area had to be fed off the Bandirran Burn by emergency pump on the Balbeggie-Bandirran Road. The Dunkeld Regional supply had to be syphoned out of Loch Ordie as the dry weather flow could not maintain the supply. The Methven-Almondbank supply failed completely and when the reservoir was nearly empty, water from the Perth Burgh supply was pumped by a booster pump at Methven Castle Lodge. Previously Almondbank etc., had been fed off Perth for some months. The Gartmore supply failed despite the new booster pump, while the Madderty Supply simply dried up completely so far as the village was concerned for about two months.

The undernoted supplies only just managed to feed their areas although scarcity notices were issued and there was practically no leakage:- Aberfoyle, Burrelton, Forgandenny, Glenfarg and Muthill.

There was a reasonable margin in the following supplies:- Blackford, Braco, Bridge of Earn, Comrie, Killin and St. Fillans.

No shortage at all was experienced on the undernoted supplies, the source being found to be more than adequate:- Aberuthven, Acharn, Ballinluig, Balquhidder, Dunning, Kenmore, Kinloch Rannoch and Shenval.

Of the Burgh etc., supplies feeding into the Landward Area, Alyth supply had to be augmented by a booster pump. Blairgowrie had a completely adequate supply. Perth supply had to be boosted by emergency pump lifting water to the inlet filtering beds. Dundee were short and scarcity notices were used throughout the Carse of Gowrie where the Fingask supply failed and to offset the increase draw on the Dundee supply the Lower Errol source was brought back into use to its limit. Stirling Burgh were short of water, but gave much more than the minimum quantity which was required to feed Thornhill, which supply failed completely. The remaining Burgh etc., supplies were adequate and there were no restrictions applied.

The lowest annual rainfall figures recorded were at Errol Park, 19.00", of which 4.30" fell in December.

During the year 311 houses were connected to the mains for the first time and the following additional fittings were supplied:- 751 sinks, 530 wash-hand basins, 521 water closets, 402 baths, 358 cisterns, 21 heating systems, 175 miscellaneous taps, 74 field troughs, and 227 drinking bowls - a total of 3059. The average number of fittings coupled up per working day was 11.

3 Drainage.

Sampling. 10 sewage effluent samples were taken during the year. Of these, 9 were from public sewage works and 1 from a private plant.

General. The standard of maintenance and operation of the sewage treatment works has been very much improved by the provision last year of a workshop and a truck for the maintenance fitters. All works are now regularly inspected and mechanical equipment adjusted, oiled and greased to a regular programme, resulting in an improved effluent being discharged after treatment.

No new Sewage Treatment Works were brought into operation during the year but construction continued on the Bridge of Earn and Glencarse Drainage Systems. Work was also commenced on the Kinrossie and Crianlarich Drainage Schemes. It is expected that Bridge of Earn, Glencarse and Kinrossie will be brought into operation early in 1956. An offer has been accepted to construct a drainage system to serve the remainder of Luncarty Village and it is expected to commence work early in 1956. Several extensions to Council Housing schemes have also been carried out during the year.

Major repairs were carried out to the Blackford Sewage Treatment Works where the media in the filters was entirely replaced and storm overflow weirs installed. It is noted that the walls of the filters at Methven, Dunning and Glenfarg are in a dangerous condition due to frost damage and it will be necessary to repair these during the coming year. All other works are in reasonable condition and all are operating satisfactorily.

The Vacuum Tank Waggon has continued to remove sludge from all the Sewage Works throughout the County, and this has been dealt with as in previous years. The Vacuum Tank Waggon is now working to full capacity and during the year it was found necessary to service private Septic Tanks outwith working hours only. When the works at Bridge of Earn, Glencarse and Kinrossie come into operation in 1956, consideration will have to be given to the purchase of another Vacuum Tank Waggon to cope with the increased number of works. Considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining straw for composting the sludge and therefore composting has had to be kept to a minimum and this has created much more work during the year. It is hoped that straw will be more easily obtained during the coming year.

4. Scavenging. Refuse collection and disposal services in the County are provided in 28 Special Scavenging Districts and 2 Regional Schemes. The 2 Regional Schemes are in the Perth and Eastern Districts of the County and are operated by a direct labour force, comprised of 4 vehicles and 8 men. The remainder of the County is done by contract, although the Special Districts of Dunning, Birnam and Dunkeld are scavenged by vehicles and men from the Perth Regional Scheme.

Throughout the County the average frequency of collection is twice per week and in no place is it less than once per week. Disposal is by means of tipping and while no great difficulty has been experienced in the past in obtaining tipping sites it is foreseeable that in the not too distant future disposal will present a major problem in maintaining the refuse removal service. This difficulty is in fact being encountered now for those areas in the close proximity of the City of Perth and unless convenient and suitable tipping ground can be acquired the result may be an increase in the cost of the services for those areas. Some appreciation of the tipping space requirements can be had when it is considered that in the Perth Regional Scheme approximately 6,200 tons of refuse was removed during the year and that approximately 325 sq. yds. of tipping ground is required to deal with it.

The cost of collection and disposal of refuse in the Perth Regional Scheme was approximately £1:-:3d. per ton.

Salvage. 14 tons 15 cwts. of waste paper were collected in the Perth Regional scheme for which £85:14:10d. was received. The demand for waste paper at the Mills has been restricted and while it has almost reached the stage of being uneconomic to collect and bale waste paper it is advisable to remove it from the refuse for the purpose of maintaining the tips in better condition.

Street Sweeping. Street sweeping is carried out in the Special Scavenging Districts either by an appointed Village Officer or by the roadman. Litter baskets were erected in the various villages during the year in an effort to keep the streets tidier and reduce the time spent on sweeping.

The cleansing service is an important factor in maintaining a healthy community. It is not, however, a service which can ever produce much income and, with ever increasing prices and greater commitments, the services in the County will tend to cost more each year if efficiency is to be maintained.

5 Lighting. There are now 39 Special Lighting Districts within the Landward County Area, the new Districts formed during 1955 being Ardler and Kirkmichael. The total number of lighting points involved is 1187.

During the year 434 specific inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspectors in connection with lighting districts. In the majority of Lighting Districts, however, the routine work of maintenance - i.e. checking on the automatic clocks, changing of defective bulbs and so on is done by the locally appointed Lighting Officers, who generally speaking, carry out their duties in an efficient manner. In some few cases, however, where districts are very small, this maintenance work is carried out either by local electricians or by the Sanitary Staff.

As mentioned in previous reports, whilst the street lighting generally installed within the County does not come up to modern town practice, it is regarded as adequate for the villages concerned.

6. Burial Grounds. The burial grounds throughout the County have been adequately maintained.

During the year no new burial ground or extension was brought into use, but schemes were prepared for the following - Kirkmichael: new burial ground to provide 184 lairs; Abernethy: new burial ground to provide 244 lairs; Monzie: extension to provide 159 lairs; and Madderty: extension to provide 88 lairs.

7. **Factories Act, 1937.** At 31st December, 1955, there were in the County 65 non-mechanical and 196 mechanical factories, as compared with 66 and 192 in 1954 - an overall increase of 3.

During the year 188 inspections were made by the Sanitary Staff. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory and any minor infringements were dealt with on the spot without recourse to formal notices.

Three intimations were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories. In two cases the complaints referred to the condition of conveniences supplied for the use of workers, one of which had already been noted and was being attended to by the District Inspector involved. The remaining intimation referred to inadequate ventilation. In all three cases remedies were provided.

The minor defects found were want of cleanliness 4, lack of proper ventilation 2, ineffective drainage of floors 1, unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences 14. All defects were duly remedied.

In one case a formal Certificate relating to means of escape in case of fire was issued after inspection of the premises.

In addition to the above listed factories 9 building or engineering sites were dealt with under Section 7 of the Factories Act.

8. **Offensive Trades** There are no offensive trades operating in the Landward area of the County.

9. **Rats and Mice Destruction.** During survey work, 801 inspections were made compared to 726 in 1954. 790 surveys of agricultural premises were made, and in only 85 cases were rat infestations, all light in degree, found. In only 8 of these cases were the squads requested to undertake rat destruction. In all other cases, the farmers stated they were using Warfarin which they found most effective, or in a few cases that they proposed to employ a Rat Destruction Company. Subsequent inspections confirmed that the work was being carried out satisfactorily.

More work is being done at refuse coups and also on mole destruction work which was done in 40 cases.

Actual rat destruction was carried out on 234 occasions - Local Authority premises chiefly refuse coups 128, dwelling houses 13, business or industrial premises 41, and agricultural properties 52. In addition 3 hospitals were regularly inspected and where necessary treated by the squads.

During this work it is estimated that 9,605 rats and 25 mice were destroyed, making a total of 9,630 compared to 14,736 in 1954, 24,869 in 1953, 29,579 in 1952 and 24,870 in 1951. The mole destruction operations were carried out at 21 farms, 9 cemeteries, 7 playing fields and 3 local authority premises.

Survey work is increasing and although it may appear unproductive in that it does not attract any revenue, it is most important since it keeps owners of properties "on their toes" and ensures that steps are being taken to keep down rats. It is almost as expensive to keep an area free from rats as it is to deal with a heavily infested area, but as will be seen from the figures quoted above, the rat population in the County has now considerably decreased and it is important to see that the improvement is maintained.

In addition to the above, 122 inspections were carried out during the year by the Sanitary staff.

10. **Disinfestations (apart from rats and mice).** The following types of disinfestations were dealt with - fleas 9, wasps 1, bugs 1, and flies 3. Infestations were not acute in most cases but in one instance where a church was badly infested by greenbottle flies, the number of flies destroyed was so great that they were actually being lifted out in bucketfuls.

11. **Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs.** 15 samples were taken. 9 samples conformed to the suppliers guarantee, 2 showed a deficiency in one or more parts, 2 showed an excess in one or more parts, 1 showed a deficiency in one part but an excess in three parts, and 1 showed a deficiency in one part with an excess in two parts.

12. **Petroleum Acts.** During the year 28 inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspectors in connection with new licences and alterations to installations.

13. **Nuisances.** During 1955, 487 nuisances were dealt with, the majority of cases being concerned with drains and water supplies. This of course, is to be expected owing to the extraordinarily dry season of 1955 which caused quite a lot of trouble with drainage and also caused quite an appreciable shortage of water in various districts. Other nuisances noted consisted of stables and byres, deposits of refuse overcrowding, smoke nuisance and burial grounds. The burial grounds nuisance consisted in all cases of infestations of moles. Dirty houses numbered 26 and in all cases these were dealt with and the conditions improved.

Following the withdrawal of the Interim Interdict, work called for by statutory notice on the drainage from the piggery at Muir of Alyth (referred to in last year's Report) was completed satisfactorily. Later in the year, however, this piggery was closed.

14. **Complaints.** 129 complaints were received during the year and were generally dealt with satisfactorily without recourse to formal intimations.

15. **General.** During the year the total number of inspections made by the staff was 7,894 which consisted of all types of inspections including nuisances, housing, special districts, infectious disease, infestations, Factories Act, petroleum licensing, rats and mice, pigstyes, river pollution, etc.

KINROSS COUNTY

REPORT to Kinross County Council on Non-Transferred Functions in the County of Kinross

Mr. I.R.M. Guthrie - Sanitary Inspector

1. Water Supply. The Sanitary Inspector continued to supervise and administer the various water undertakings throughout the County. These were added to by the County Council taking over the supply in the Fossoway district which had previously been operated privately by the Fossoway Water Company. This supply is obtained in bulk from a Dunfermline Town Council raw water main at Merryhills, Rumbling Bridge and distributed largely in the village of Crook of Devon. the average daily consumpt being 20,000 gallons. The Milnathort supply, the adequacy of which has been in doubt over many years, failed to meet the demand during the abnormal dry summer experienced this year and it was found necessary for a period of 2 months to cut the village supply off completely from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. daily. This cut the consumption by approximately 50% and avoided complete failure of the system. As a result of this the County Council re-opened investigations into means of procuring a suitable augmentation supply for Milnathort, and a decision was taken on the advice of the Consultant Engineers to sink a 7" diameter bore-hole in the region of Milnathort Cross some 300 feet deep at which level the Geological Survey advise that there is water bearing strata. It is intended to pump this water by an automatic electric pump into the supply mains. The Kinnesswood supply on the other hand, despite the prolonged drought, did not falter and the village enjoyed an adequate 24 hours daily supply. As was the case throughout the country during this drought many private supplies failed for the first time within memory. notable among which was the Glenlomond Hospital supply, in which case the shortage was overcome by temporary pumping arrangements from a nearby Fife Main, which arrangements have since been made permanent.

20 samples were taken during the year, 7 from public and 13 from private supplies.

2. Drainage. The Sewage Disposal Plants in Milnathort and Kinnesswood, the two Special Drainage Districts constituted within the County, continued to function satisfactorily. Effluent samples from both plants were taken during the year and proved to be satisfactory.

3. Cleansing. The County Scavenging service continued to operate on the lines reported in last year's Annual Report. The refuse tip for the Milnathort and Portmoak areas was completed during the year and a new tip at Netherton Quarry, Milnathort was acquired. The filling-in of this Quarry will provide tipping facilities for approximately 8 years. It was decided to acquire a piece of ground for a refuse tip in the Fossoway area and negotiations were under way at the end of the year.

4. Housing. The number of dwelling-houses erected by the County Council between 1919 and the end of 1954 was 142. During 1955 a further 14 - 3 apartment houses were completed in the Bridgefaulds Road area of Milnathort. At the end of 1955 a further four houses, 2 - 3 apartments and 2 - 4 apartments, were under construction in Kinnesswood. The completion of these will bring the Council's present building programme to a close, although there are several sites throughout the County ear-marked for further housing development.

During the year seventeen applications from private persons for grant-aid in terms of Section 111 of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1950 were received and approved by the County Council bringing the total number of applications to 44.

Two applications for grant in terms of Section 3 of the Housing (Scotland) Act, 1952 to provide agricultural workers houses, one of three and one of four apartments, were received and approved by the County Council.

Fortytwo applications under the County Council's Building Byelaws were dealt with during the year. These covered the erection of new dwelling-houses, garages, byres, and other agricultural buildings, etc., the conversion, renovation, alteration and extension of buildings, the provision of bathrooms, kitchenettes, etc.

As required in the Housing (Repairs & Rents) (Scotland) Act, 1954 a survey of unfit properties was carried out during the year in order that the Council might formulate the proposals required of it by the Secretary of State for Scotland.

One Certificate of Disrepair in terms of the Increase of Rent & Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920 was issued.

5. Street Lighting. During the year a second Special Lighting District was formed in the County This included Blairingone Village in which a system of 9 Tungsten filament lighting points controlled by an automatic time switch was installed.

6. Offensive Trades. No statutory offensive trades are conducted within the County. The one slaughterhouse is in Milnathort and deals with pigs only. It is maintained in a sound state of repair and continues to be excellently managed.

7. Burial Grounds. These are maintained satisfactorily by Local Authority labour.

8. Factories. The various factories within the County were visited as required and found in general to be satisfactory.

9. General. Once again the usual number of complaints reached the Sanitary Department. These related mainly to house defects, water supply failues etc. Where remedial measures were found necessary these were in the majority of cases undertaken on intimation to the responsible party. No Statutory Notice in terms of Section 20 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897 was served.

SMALL BURGHS

REPORTS to Town Councils on Non-Transferred Functions

ABERFELDY

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. G.A. Sangster

1. Water Supply. Despite the very dry summer, there was an ample supply of water during the year. Maintenance repairs were carried out at the reservoir and major repairs to the intake.

2. Drainage. Complaints were received of pollution in the Moness Burn from the effluent from an adjoining property, which it is hoped to have connected to the burgh sewer. The drainage system functioned satisfactorily.

3. Cleansing. The arrangements worked satisfactorily. The life of the existing refuse coup is rapidly drawing to a close and the lease expires at an early date. Search is being made for an alternative site which is not likely to be easily obtained.

4. Housing. 31 houses were completed during the year (two 4-apartment traditional, sixteen 3-apartment Weir and thirteen 4-apartment Weir), making a total of 170 houses completed by the Council up to 31/12/55, when a further 5 houses were being provided by a reconstruction scheme.

5. Factories. There are 18 mechanical and 4 non-mechanical factories in the Burgh. 11 visits were made when minor defects were rectified on being brought to the notice of the proprietors.

6. Offensive Trades. There are none. The Burgh slaughterhouse is operated by a local butcher and has been kept in a satisfactory condition.

7. Burial Ground. This has been well looked after. The question of extension is under consideration.

8. General. The school and hostels are well kept. During the year the usual small number of minor complaints were dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector.

ABERNETHY

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. A.L. Riddell

1. Water Supply. This proved ample in quantity and satisfactory in quality.

2. Drainage and Scavenging. These services continue to operate satisfactorily and no cause for complaint arose.

3. Housing. The total number of houses completed to date is 66. No new houses were completed during 1955, but 6 were under construction at the end of the year. Three grant cases were approved during the year.

4. Factories. The 8 factories were inspected and found to be satisfactory.

5. Burial Grounds. The burial ground was well looked after. At long last a site for a new burial ground has been found and it is hoped to have it available shortly.

6. General. One minor complaint was dealt with during the year, but one serious complaint arose for which a remedy has not yet been found. This concerned a farm effluent entering the Ballo Burn at the Burgh boundary. The farm itself being situated in the County. Altogether 56 inspections for various purposes were made by the Sanitary Inspector during the year.

ALYTH

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. J. Chalmers

1. Water Supply. This was satisfactory in quality but scarcity was experienced during the prolonged drought when augmentation from the Alyth Burn was necessary. By the end of the year, however, supplies were back to normal.

2. Drainage. The sewage system remains as previously reported.

3. Cleansing. The system is working satisfactorily, but a new coup will be required before long.

4. Housing. No new houses were completed during the year, and at 31/12/55, 195 houses had been erected by the Council. At the end of the year a further 16 houses were under construction.

5. Factories. Regular visits were paid to the factories which were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

6. General. The school is well kept. The burial ground is well looked after.

AUCHTERARDER

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. A. Brebner

1. Water Supply. The Burgh is supplied by two distribution systems. The upper section is supplied from the springs at Duchally and an intake from the Carlownie Burn, and the lower section is supplied from springs at Crook of Moss. The total storage capacity of the two systems is 98,000 gallons.

During the period of prolonged drought, the yield from the springs deteriorated considerably, but by augmenting the Crook of Moss system from the Duchally system a constant supply for the Burgh was maintained. In addition, verbal requests for economy were made to all consumers of water for purposes other than domestic use.

Following complaints of shortage in one area, 50 yards of heavily corroded pipe was replaced with satisfactory result.

2. Drainage. The drainage and sewage systems were satisfactory.

3. Cleansing. The scavenging arrangements were satisfactory, refuse being disposed of at a quarry within the Burgh. Waste paper is collected once a week, and during the year over 44 tons were salvaged.

4. Housing. 19 houses were completed during the year, (eight 2-apartment Weir and eleven 3-apartment Weir). The total number of houses completed at 31/12/55 was 266. Four improvement grants were approved.

5. Factories. The 19 factories have been maintained in satisfactory condition.

6. General. The school is well kept. Conditions at the two burial grounds are satisfactory.

BLAIRGOWRIE and RATTRAY

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. W.A. Coutts

1. Water Supply. The water supply was satisfactory and proved ample during the year.

2. Drainage. The sewage disposal work, as previously reported, is grossly overloaded. During the prolonged dry spell, the effluent from the Rattray works collected in a stagnant pool in the river and gave rise to some considerable nuisance. To obviate this, the bed of the river Ericht was bulldozed to provide a flow of water to the Rattray side of the river. The Council have now engaged a firm of consultant engineers to submit proposals for new works to deal with sewage from both Blairgowrie and Rattray.

3. Cleansing. This is efficiently carried out by Burgh staff, and the refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping over an area of marsh land beside the river.

4. Housing. 39 houses were completed during the year (two 2-apartment, fourteen 3-apartment, and 23 four apartment, all traditional) and at 31/12/55, 446 houses had been completed by the Council, when a further 4 houses were under construction.

5. Slaughterhouse. The Burgh slaughterhouse is leased by a private firm. Its situation is bad, but the improvements carried out last year have made it possible to manage the premises much more efficiently. Further improvements, however, are necessary to bring the slaughterhouse up to modern standards.

6. General. The three schools are well kept. The factories have been well maintained. The burial grounds are well kept.

CALLANDER

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. D.M. Thomson

1. Water Supply. The water supply continues to be of excellent quality and was ample in quantity without restrictions.

2. Drainage. There is no change in the sewage disposal arrangements, but the Town Council are now proposing to undertake major improvements and the engineers have been instructed to obtain offers for the necessary work.

3. Cleansing. The cleansing and scavenging arrangements are satisfactory.

4. Housing. No further houses were completed during the year, the number erected by the Council remaining at 175

5. Factories. The factories and workshops within the Burgh were inspected regularly and found to be satisfactory.

6. General. A number of minor complaints were received and dealt with. The burial grounds were well kept. The sanitary conditions at the schools were satisfactory.

COUPAR ANGUS

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. G.D. Oliphant

1. Water Supply. The supply was severely taxed during the prolonged dry spell, and maintenance required careful control. No decision has yet been reached regarding a much needed new supply.

2. Drainage. The drainage system was satisfactory and despite the very low level of the river for much of the year, no nuisance was created. During the year investigations were made of proposals by a local firm to discharge the effluent from chemical processes at their factory into the sewer, and a number of tests were carried out in order to assess the likely effect of this effluent on the purification works. The tests showed that with safeguards as to permissible quantities of certain constituents it would be possible to deal with the effluent, but the firm finally decided not to go ahead with their proposals.

3. Cleansing. The scavenging arrangements are satisfactory A new coup has been obtained and should be adequate for many years.

4. Housing. No new houses were completed during the year. The total number of Council houses at 31/12/55 remained at 184, but 26 houses were in course of erection on sites where a number of unfit houses had been demolished. The survey under the Housing (Repairs & Rents) (Scotland) Act 1954 showed that of the 751 dwellings in the Burgh, 132 were regarded as unfit and 106 substandard but capable of improvement.

5. Factories. There are 19 factories in the Burgh and these have been found to be well kept.

6. General. One house let in lodgings is kept in good order. The burial ground is well maintained. The school is well looked after.

CRIEFF

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. C. Rankin

1. Water Supply. The water supply was satisfactory in quality and ample in quantity.

2. Drainage. The drainage arrangements were satisfactory.

3. Cleansing. Scavenging and collection of refuse has been efficiently carried out.

4. Housing. No new houses were completed during the year and at 31/12/55 the number of houses completed by the Council remained at 431

5. Offensive Trades. The slaughterhouse is rented to local butchers and is kept in a clean condition.

6. Schools. All the schools are kept in a clean and tidy condition.

7. Burial Grounds. There are three burial grounds, but only one is in use and is kept in good condition

8. Factories. There are 45 factories in the Burgh, 6 having power-driven machinery. Conditions were found to be satisfactory.

DOUNE

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. A.J. Low

1. Water Supply. The water supply was satisfactory in quality and adequate in quantity. Repairs were carried out at the intake on the Annet Burn.

2. Drainage. The drainage arrangements operated satisfactorily.

3. Cleansing. The cleansing arrangements are satisfactory. Food swill is still being collected and is utilised by a nearby pig feeder.

4. Housing. At 31/12/54 the Council had erected 82 new houses and no further houses were erected during the year. Reconditioning of an old block of property in Main Street is scheduled and this will provide for 4 houses. Another old block of property in King Street is also to be reconditioned

5. Factories. The factories were kept in a satisfactory condition.

6. General. A few minor complaints were dealt with during the year. The school is in a satisfactory condition. The burial ground situated within the Burgh is seldom used.

DUNBLANE

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. B.J. McKay

1. Water Supply. The water supply is of good quality and ample in quantity. The daily consumpt has now been reduced to 75-80 gallons per head, and this figure should be capable of considerable further reduction as old services are cut off and leaks traced.

During the year it was possible to provide a considerable amount of water to augment the Clackmannan supply and in August in order to increase the daily delivery, restrictions on the use of hosepipes etc. were introduced.

2. Drainage. The drainage system worked satisfactorily, but the erection of a large number of houses on the west side of the town has led to overloading of the main sewer in Claredon Place, and Consulting Engineers have been engaged to submit proposals for a new scheme for the whole of this area. The sewage works is producing a reasonable effluent, although at the end of the year the filters were out of action awaiting spare parts.

3. Cleansing. The scavenging arrangements have worked satisfactorily.

4. Housing. 44 houses were completed during the year (sixteen 2-apartment, sixteen 3-apartment and twelve 4-apartment Weir), making a total of 251 erected by the Council at 31/12/55, with a further 22 under construction. Two blocks of old property were acquired during the year. These are to be reconstructed to provide 7 and 2 modern houses respectively.

During the year, the Town Council resolved to serve a Clearance Order on an area in Kirk Street/Sinclair Street. The houses in the area are practically all unfit and most are in a disgraceful condition through sanitary and other defects. Following objections by the main owners, the Trustees of the Society of Friends of Dunblane Cathedral, the Order was withdrawn. Something will have to be done about these houses, for as they stand, they are a menace to the health of the occupiers as well as a blot on the sanitary condition of the Town.

5. Offensive Trades. There are none. The slaughterhouse was kept in a satisfactory manner.

6. Factories. Regular inspection of the 17 factories in the Burgh was carried out, when conditions were found to be satisfactory.

7. General. The schools are well kept. The usual number of minor complaints were received and dealt with.

KINROSS

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. I.R.M. Guthrie

1. Water Supply. The water supply was satisfactory in quality and ample in quantity.

2. Drainage. The drainage arrangements were satisfactory, although difficulty is being experienced with the south works which is taxed to capacity. In addition, Loch Leven is now being maintained at a higher level than ever before, and this results in damming back at the works in times of heavy rainfall. Reconstruction of these works will have to be considered fairly soon.

3. Cleansing. The scavenging and refuse disposal arrangements are satisfactory.

4. Housing. No new houses were completed by the Council during the year, the total number of houses erected by the Council at 31/12/55 remaining at 190 (eight 2-apartment for Old Folks, fifty-two 3-apartment, 120 4-apartment and ten 5-apartment), but twelve 4-apartment houses were under construction at the end of the year.

5. General. The three burial grounds are well maintained. The factories were visited and found to be satisfactory. The school is well kept.

PITLOCHRY

Sanitary Inspector - Mr. G.A. Sangster

1. Water Supply. The water supply is excellent in quality and ample in quantity.

2. Drainage. The sewage works are satisfactory.

3. Cleansing. The system is satisfactory. A new coup has been obtained and tipping will commence there early next year. A new diesel refuse freighter has now been obtained with resultant economy in operation.

4. Housing. 10 houses were completed during the year, making a total of 164 erected by the Town Council at 31/12/55. 2 improvement grants were approved.

5. Factories. There are 16 mechanical and 14 non-mechanical factories in the Burgh and 12 inspections were carried out during the year. Minor defects were brought to the attention of the occupiers.

6. Burial Grounds. The proposed extension to the cemetery is still under consideration.

7. General. Several minor complaints were received and dealt with. The school is kept in a satisfactory condition.

APPENDIX I

VITAL STATISTICS

Details according to local areas

Year 1955	Population Census 1951	Estimated Population 30/6/55	Births*	Birth Rate	Deaths*	Death Rate
Perth County	87,606	85,905	1,346	15.7	1,200	14.0
Landward	59,941	58,824	937	15.9	767	13.0
Aberfeldy	1,523	1,513	29	19.0	22	14.5
Abernethy	675	666	6	9.0	16	24.0
Alyth	2,072	2,022	29	14.3	32	15.8
Auchterarder	2,434	2,390	34	14.2	38	16.0
Blairgowrie	5,383	5,357	86	16.1	96	17.9
Callander	1,727	1,650	16	9.7	32	19.4
Coupar Angus	2,175	2,184	39	17.9	24	11.0
Crieff	5,473	5,378	90	16.7	87	16.2
Doune	834	872	14	16.1	13	14.9
Dunblane	2,985	2,799	32	11.4	47	16.8
Pitlochry	2,384	2,250	34	15.1	26	11.6
Kinross County	7,418	7,254	99	13.6	104	14.3
Landward	4,923	4,734	59	12.5	62	13.1
Kinross Burgh	2,495	2,520	40	15.9	42	16.7
Joint County	95,024	93,159	1,445	15.5	1,304	14.0

* - corrected for residence

DISTRICT NURSING SERVICE

Summary of Work done by District Nurses during the year 1955

District	Cases Nursed			Nursing Visits		Ante-natal visits for Confinements		Child Welfare visits		Tuberculosis visits	School Inspections and visits	Miscellaneous visits	
	General		Maternity	General	Maternity	Home	Hosp.	Infants	1 - 5			Under 65	Over 65
	Under 65	Over 65											
Aberfeldy	51	59	7	1,950	131	39	62	244	293	149	35	3	4
Aberfoyle	74	32	2	1,652	11	-	114	266	209	41	161	1	-
Abernethy	47	43	8	1,722	158	56	85	213	217	43	22	4	8
Almondbank	152	36	6	1,998	91	39	106	304	292	70	31	-	-
Alyth	56	63	12	3,639	174	73	210	633	597	105	269	43	85
Auchterarder	55	69	16	1,913	291	134	168	390	371	99	135	28	31
Auchtergaven	256	94	9	3,319	191	79	139	286	348	122	58	37	21
Balquhidder	136	26	3	1,982	58	16	59	150	208	23	45	-	2
Birnam & Dunkeld	54	59	8	1,340	133	49	48	357	351	109	64	15	18
Blackford	12	15	10	1,805	180	50	89	248	371	43	47	5	3
Blairgowrie/ Rattray	117	128	19	4,844	399	137	70	1,211	1,197	135	233	18	-
Braco	148	49	4	2,434	67	114	43	204	235	27	35	2	2
Callander	44	45	8	1,550	151	59	87	308	287	151	58	11	10
Comrie	172	87	15	3,001	265	141	104	197	205	26	48	3	1
Coupar Angus	45	55	4	2,113	60	27	111	518	466	118	107	4	4
Crieff	368	232	38	7,487	646	369	235	912	712	170	172	18	26
Dunbarney	25	15	7	766	102	55	92	373	340	106	173	-	-
Dunblane	40	76	11	1,330	172	70	57	329	280	138	58	1	-
Dunning	31	36	6	1,479	98	43	59	320	317	56	94	9	11
East Carse	73	64	9	2,507	149	110	4	310	399	210	177	36	33
Errol	51	36	13	1,451	220	83	33	275	452	164	60	4	-
Fortingall	118	27	2	1,766	17	-	15	76	73	3	23	-	-
Fowlis Wester	84	31	4	1,216	92	48	87	252	268	26	80	1	1
Glenfarg	28	29	6	1,357	102	35	43	157	141	12	58	-	3
Glenlyon	164	19	-	1,721	-	-	34	39	148	22	10	-	-
Kenmore	87	32	3	1,165	55	26	-	130	141	48	33	-	-
Killin	22	23	2	909	37	18	96	234	227	-	56	-	-
Logierait	40	33	8	1,828	137	55	7	183	128	17	35	2	10
Methven	162	41	6	1,781	114	66	105	314	364	65	39	11	10
Muthill	138	53	14	2,378	208	86	64	181	208	46	44	56	48
Pitlochry	75	55	11	2,128	222	56	86	224	238	92	76	8	12
Rannoch & Foss	109	28	4	1,271	69	55	51	155	159	11	57	2	4
Scone	73	61	24	1,497	370	252	190	466	628	166	128	41	60
Stanley	173	86	19	2,259	250	124	128	366	591	200	73	13	16
St. Martins	58	30	5	975	152	146	131	339	377	142	45	18	9
Strathardle	91	49	11	3,326	143	96	-	308	346	-	107	236	338
Thornhill	46	20	11	845	134	50	81	271	209	81	63	-	-
Vale of Teith	103	83	7	2,763	137	69	162	515	579	107	179	73	68
West Carse	58	36	3	1,778	69	38	48	189	244	37	46	-	3
West Atholl	106	29	17	1,548	289	140	25	242	356	77	72	8	4
Fossoway	21	21	9	1,643	182	72	93	202	234	2	66	-	3
Kinross	37	26	21	2,915	377	162	134	436	694	230	167	27	98
Milnathort	57	47	13	2,801	180	130	117	157	255	80	140	8	2
TOTALS	3,857	2,178	415	90,152	7,083	3,467	3,672	13,484	14,755	3,569	3,679	746	948

APPENDIX III

TUBERCULIN TESTING AND B.C.G. VACCINATION

Session 1954-55

School	% Consent	Boys		Girls		Boys and Girls			
		No. Tested	% positive	No. Tested	% positive	No. Tested	% positive	No. vaccinated	Re-tests
Perth City									
Perth Academy	93	172	28	212	28	384	28	276	183
Perth High	91	285	28	269	30	554	29	393	231
St. John's R.C.	81	31	39	44	18	75	27	55	26
Total	91	488	29	525	28	1013	29	724	440
Perth District									
Errol	98	22	18	26	23	48	21	38	5
Invergowrie	76	13	54	16	38	29	45	16	3
Scone	90	28	54	31	39	59	46	32	-
Stanley	93	27	33	38	32	65	32	44	4
Methven	93	34	18	28	21	62	19	50	5
Dunbarney	86	23	16	17	23	40	20	32	5
Kilgraston *	-	-	-	16	-	16	-	16	-
Total	90	147	31	156	29	303	30	212	22
Eastern District									
Blairgowrie	86	90	34	78	41	168	38	105	30
Alyth	84	24	58	34	41	58	48	30	5
Coupar Angus	97	24	63	31	29	55	44	31	1
Total	87	138	38	143	31	281	41	166	36
Highland District									
Breadalbane Academy	86	40	40	47	40	87	40	52	38
Dunkeld	97	18	17	13	31	31	23	24	1
Pitlochry	88	32	41	35	32	67	36	43	3
Croftinloan *	-	3	33	-	-	3	33	-	-
Total	89	90	36	95	36	185	36	109	42
Central District									
Crieff	99	45	33	55	28	100	30	70	5
Morrison's Academy	91	79	29	85	35	164	32	111	67
Comrie	96	15	33	12	25	27	30	19	1
Auchterarder	97	40	38	35	17	75	23	58	6
Lawers Agri.	91	5	20	1	100	6	33	4	5
Seymour Lodge *	-	-	-	29	24	29	24	22	-
Total	94	184	30	188	29	372	30	262	84
Western District									
Dunblane	87	31	29	24	29	55	29	39	-
McLaren High	89	55	35	60	20	115	27	84	36
Aberfoyle	90	23	39	14	29	37	35	24	1
Killin	87	7	43	4	25	11	36	7	-
Queen Victoria *	-	73	41	-	-	73	41	43	-
St. Ninian's *	-	7	14	-	-	7	14	6	9
Total	88	116	34	102	24	218	29	154	37
Kinross County									
Kinross	94	60	52	54	35	114	44	60	4
Naemoor *	-	11	27	11	36	22	32	15	-
Total	94	60	52	54	35	114	44	60	4
COUNTY TOTALS	90	735	36	738	31	1473	34	973	225
CITY & COUNTY TOTALS	91	1223	33	1263	30	2486	32	1697	665

* Not included in Totals

APPENDIX IV

LIST OF STAFF

County Medical Officer	James Kelman, M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officers	John B. Jack, M.B., Ch.B. Elspeth B. Beveridge, L.R.C.P. & S., D.P.H., D.R.C.O.G.
Senior Dental Officer	Michael R. Kirkland, L.D.S.
Dental Officers	Mrs. M.S. Black, L.D.S. Christian J. Brunton, L.D.S. Elizabeth J. Mann, L.D.S.
Superintendent Nursing Officer	Elspeth L. Brown, R.G.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.
Assistant Superintendent Nursing Officer	Jessie S. Waters, R.G.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V.
Chief Administrative Assistant	William Brannan
Children's Officer	Frederick J. Earnshaw
Senior Physiotherapist	Agnes C. Hampton
County Sanitary Inspector	Alexander L. Riddell
District Sanitary Inspectors	
Eastern:	George D. Oliphant
Highland:	George A. Sangster
Perth/Central:	George V. Hadden (Senior)
Western:	Alexander J. Low
Kinross:	Ian R.M. Guthrie